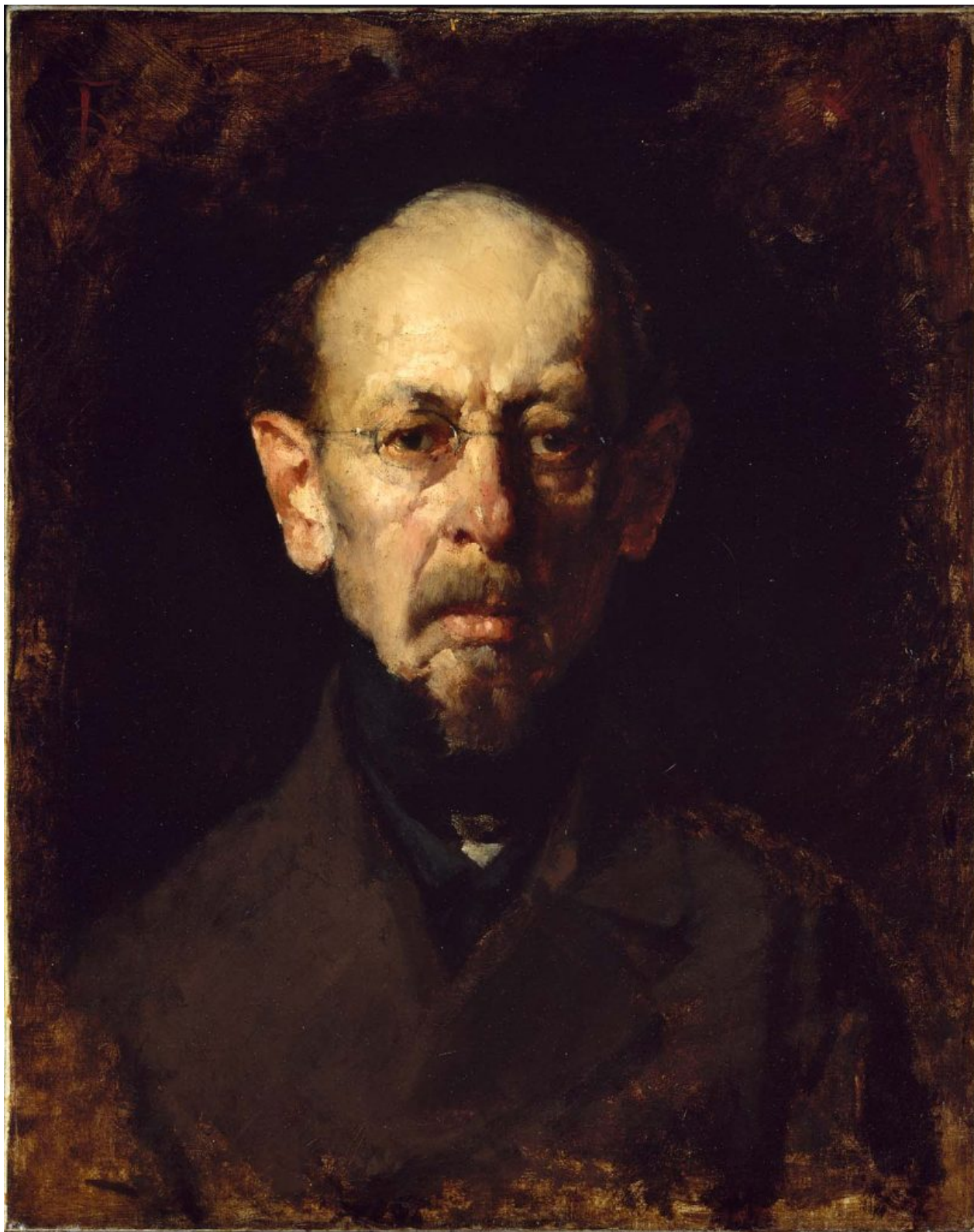


Our Professor Berrington

by [Myles Weber](#) (February 2024)



The Old Professor, Frank Duveneck, 1871

Our Professor Berrington proclaims an end
to certitude except his own. He, like others,
flattens verity, for he'll extend
a firm denial to facts. He smothers

in the crib hard sciences, as he knows too much
that isn't so. Simultaneous
turgid pronouncements from a book—his crutch—
grease his smooth escape. Who can free us

from slippery attempts to block, dispose
of, and dread our late advances? Culture regresses
to cave-man schemes when primitives impose
fallacious postulations. No one possesses

the fortitude we need to salvage clarity.
In rudimentary soil doubt is planted.
As his students we lack temerity:
To Professor Berrington, God has granted

an imitation intellect of a kind,
buried in academic detritus.
On some points, we bear the truth in mind.
On some, our hesitancy circles back to bite us.

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