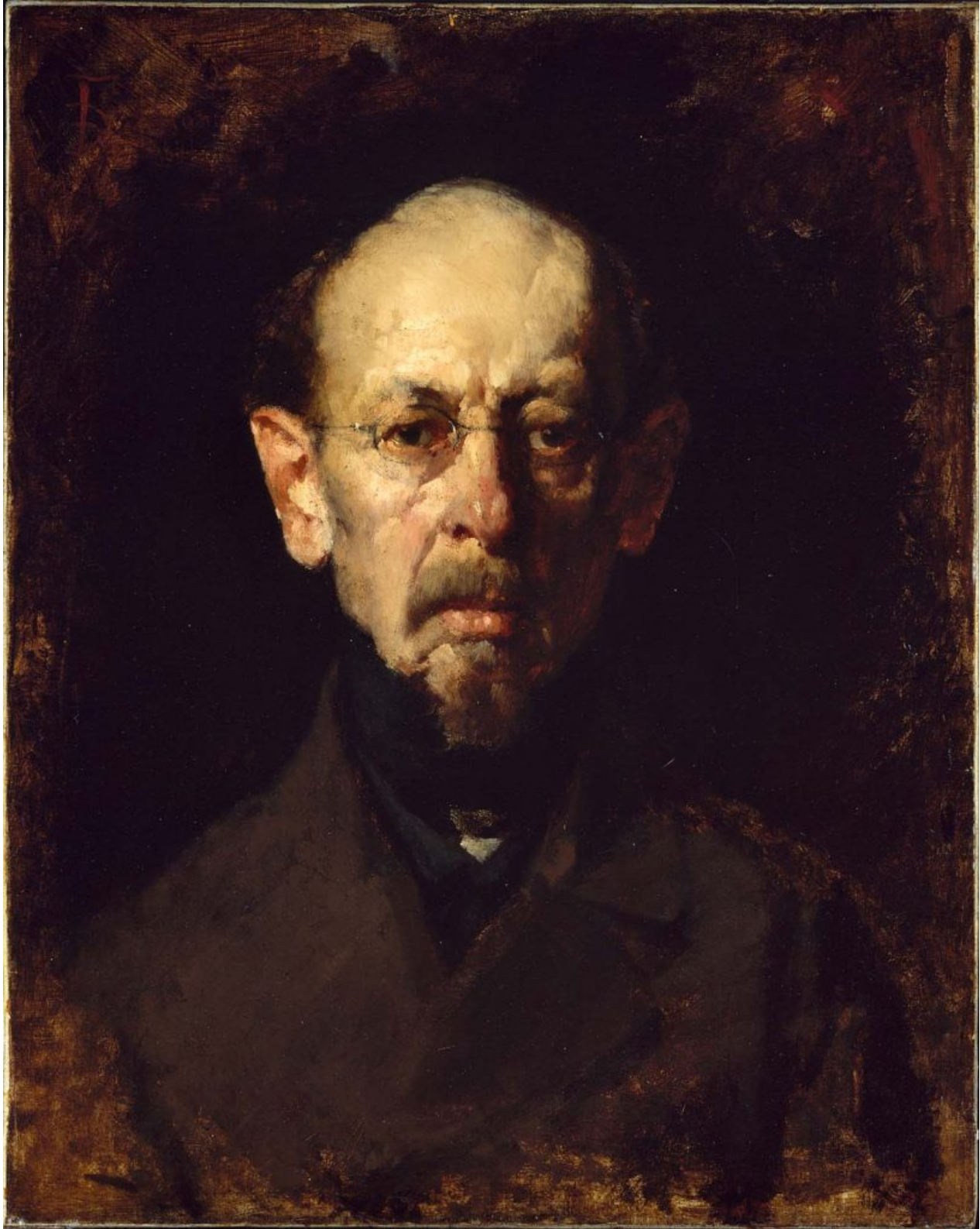


# Our Professor Berrington

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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**Myles Weber** is the author of *Consuming Silences: How We Read Authors Who Don't Publish* (University of Georgia Press). His work has appeared in the *Georgia Review*, the *Southern Review*, the *Sewanee Review*, and the *Kenyon Review*.

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