

A DEBATE ON THE NATURE OF SCIENCE

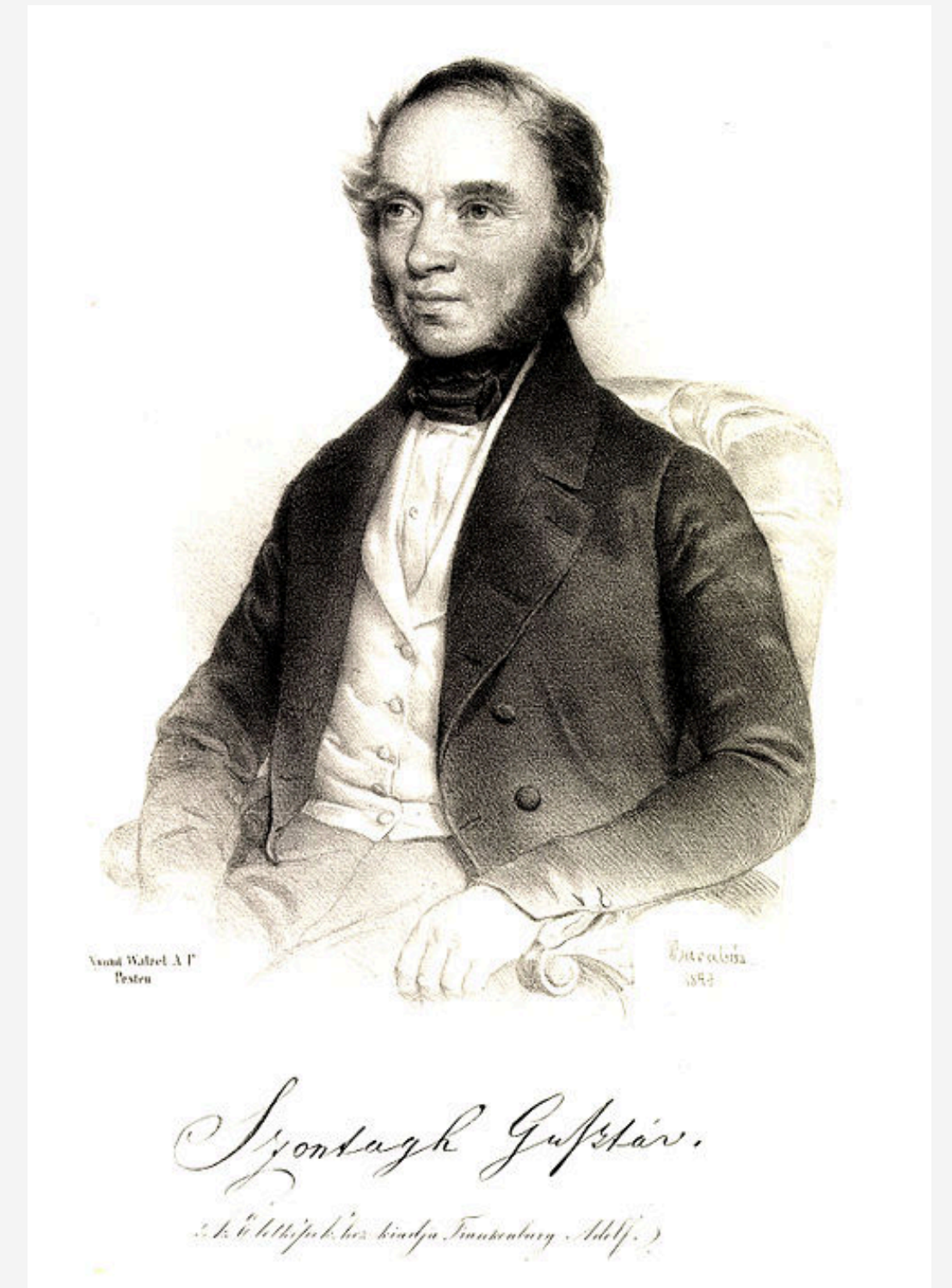
(In 19th Century Hungary)

THE DEBATE

- State of the Sciences in Hungary
- State of the Scientist in Hungary
- Correct ratio of the sciences
- What constitutes science?

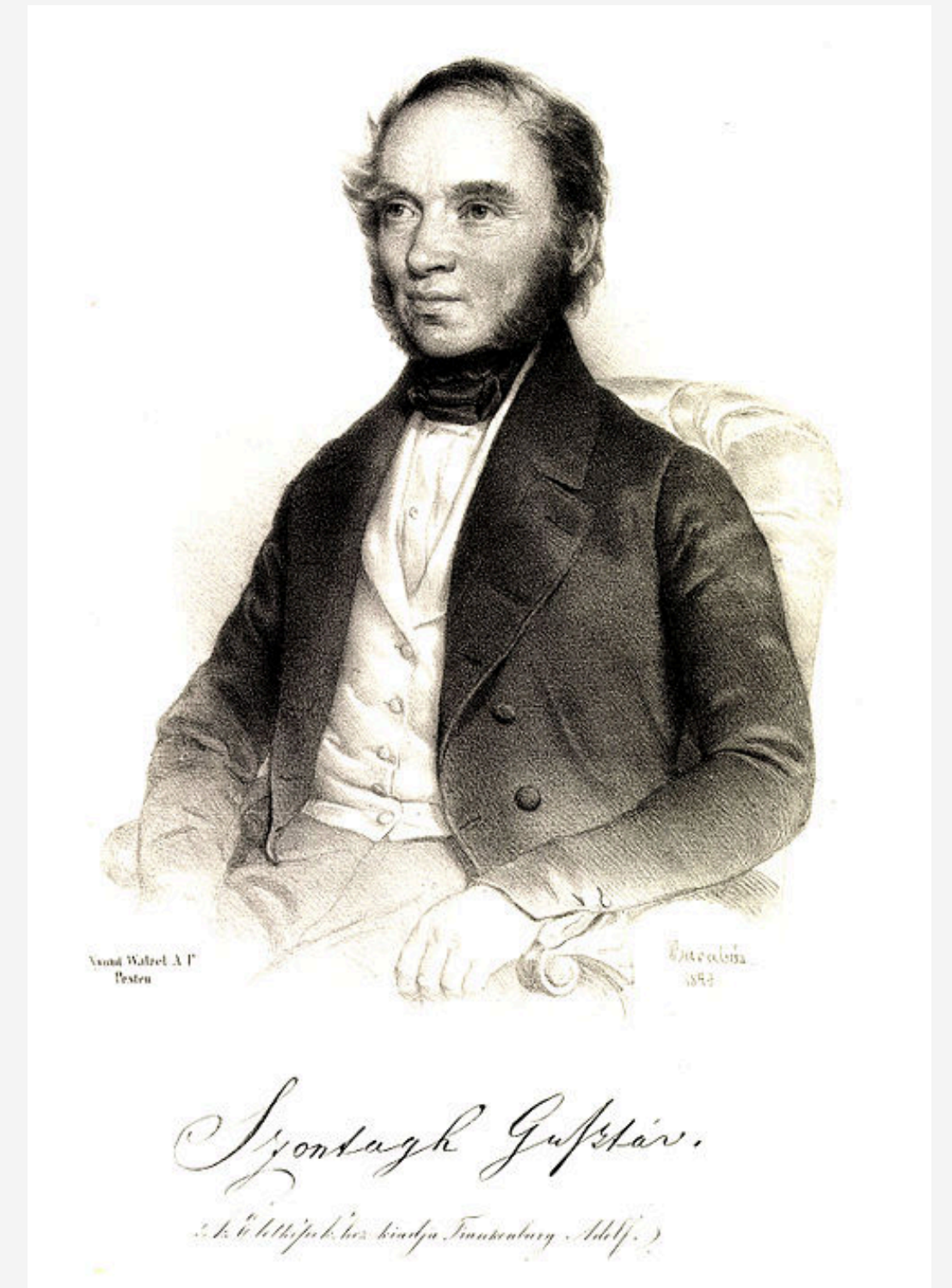
SZONTAGH GUSZTÁV

- Typology of the Sciences
 - "fertile or infertile, necessary or dispensable, vital or luxurious"
 - goal: usefulness, proportionality
- View on Human Sciences (literature)
 - "The cultivators of national literature in this skewed proportion are like the farmer who, confined to a certain space for the sustenance of his life, plants it not with grain and potatoes but with flowers."



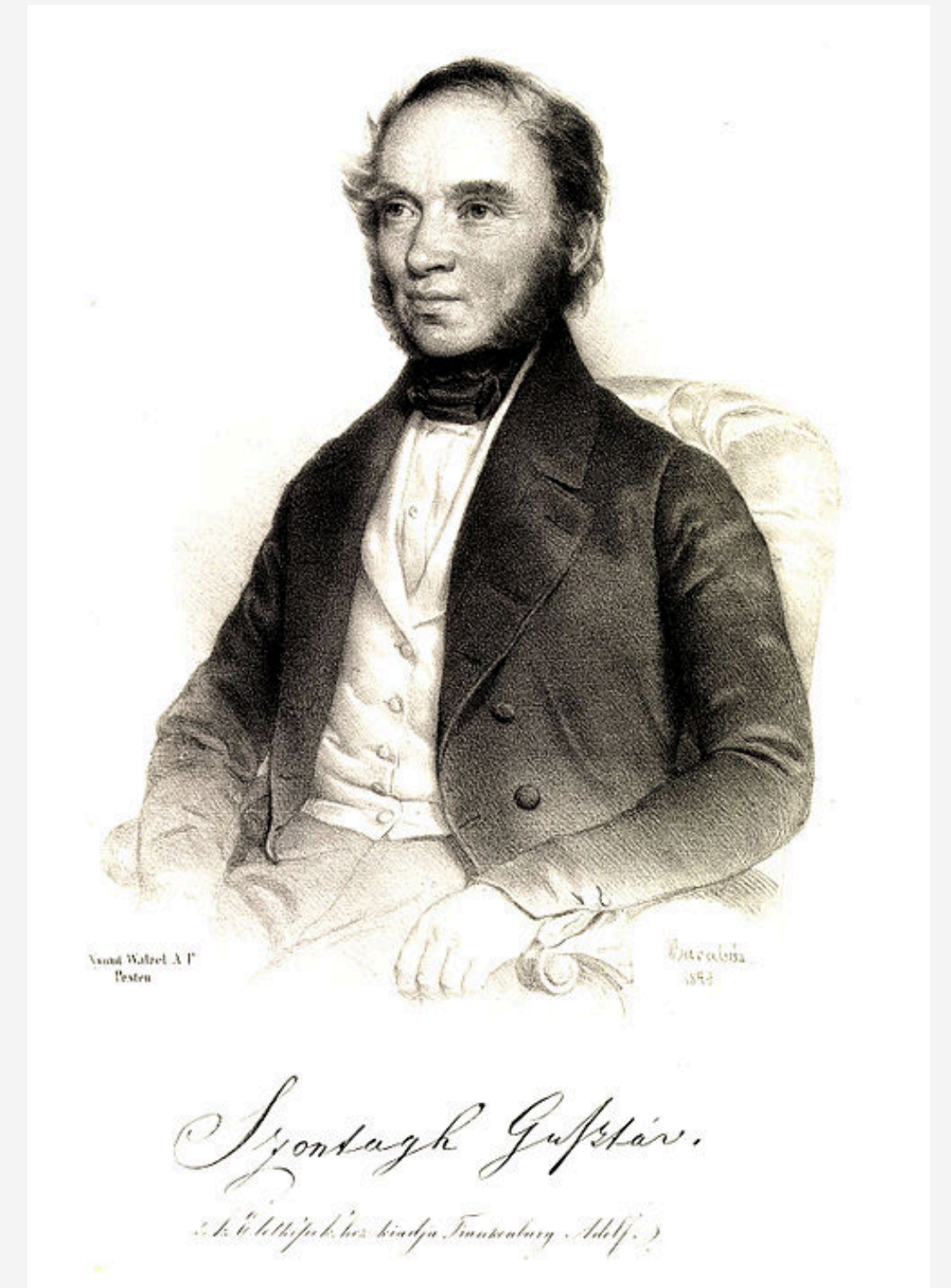
SZONTAGH GUSZTÁV

“The honour of any science is generally presupposed by its truth and its **usefulness.**”



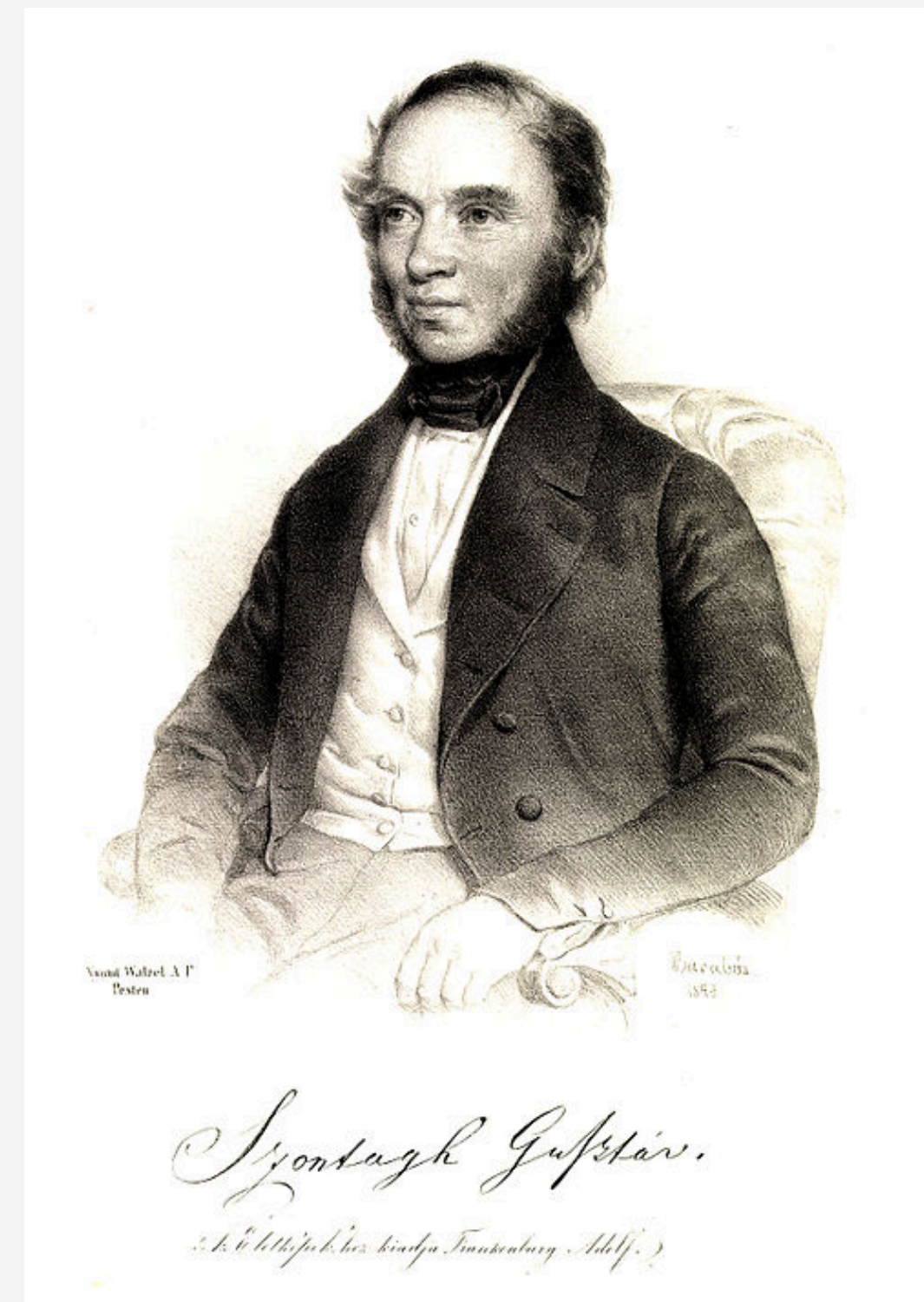
SZONTAGH GUSZTÁV

“Why, on the other hand, have the Italians, who began the culture of the Christian world, who have the oldest literature, been left behind in progress? It is partly because they devoted themselves mainly to the arts, neglecting the real sciences. And finally, why is it that the German, with all his sciences, cannot rise to political importance? **Because it has sunk down into theory, because it has diverted the spirit of philosophy from reality and life.**”



SZONTAGH GUSZTÁV

- Evaluation of 1848 (possibly)
 - The nation of Hungary was like a child, running without any care for danger and restraint.
 - The child banged his head
 - But can emerge as an adult
 - Embracing the Sciences



TOLDY FERENC

- 1805-1875
- Literary Historian, Critic.
- Member of Hungarian Academy of Sciences (1830)



TOLDY FERENC

"It is true that without bread and meat, without shelter and clothing, this wretched body perishes; but it is also true that he who eats and digests only,... is protected against the pernicious influences of nature or against the beasts of prey, **stands only among living creatures where the beasts of the forest stand.**"



TOLDY FERENC

- **Relationship between Sciences**

"Let me, my friend, translate your typology into another language. There are some sciences which regard man as an animal, and others which satisfy the necessity of that part of him which **raises him above animals, and even makes him human..**"



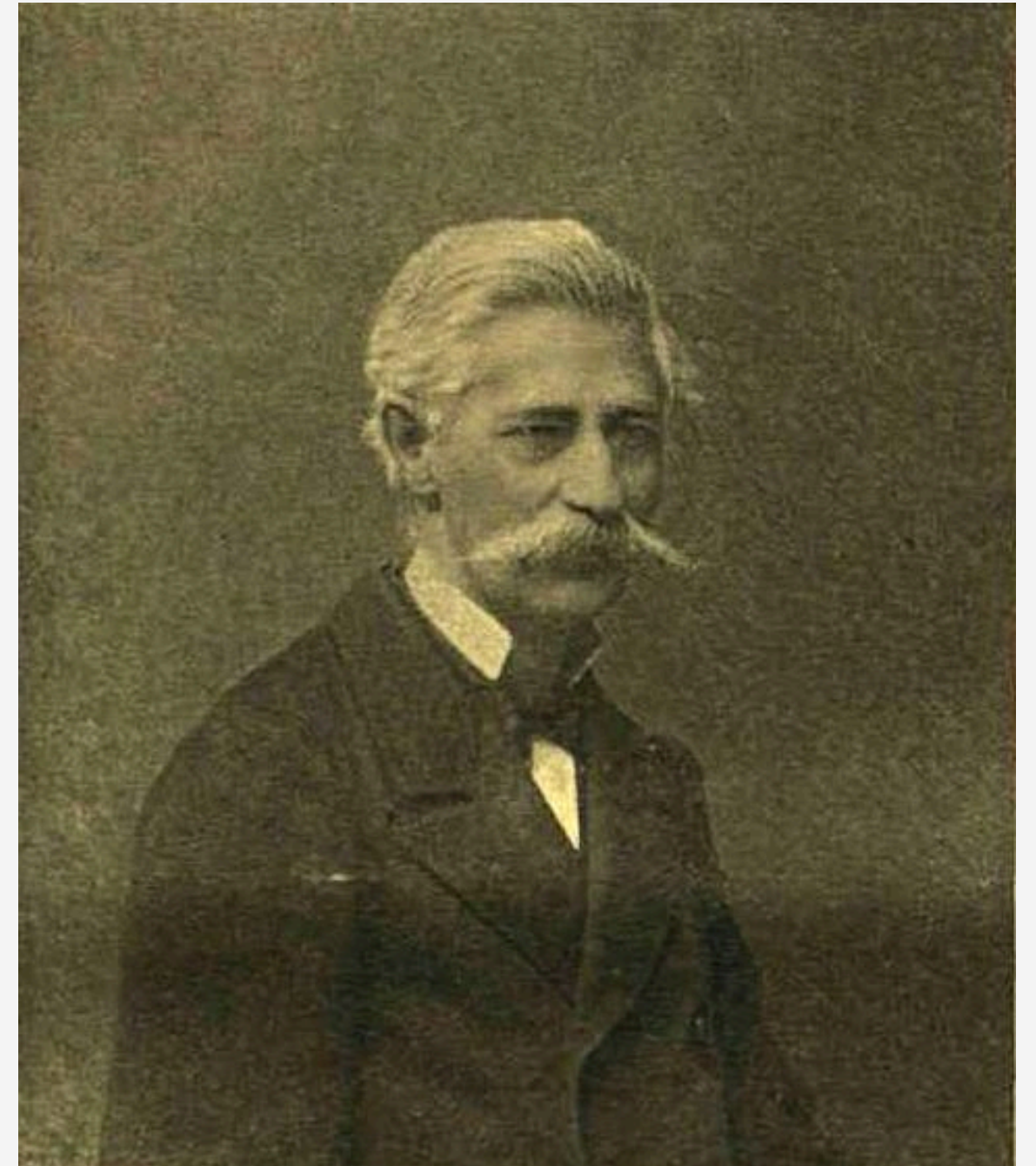
TOLDY FERENC

“wisdom neither grows in the field
nor is it produced in the factory”



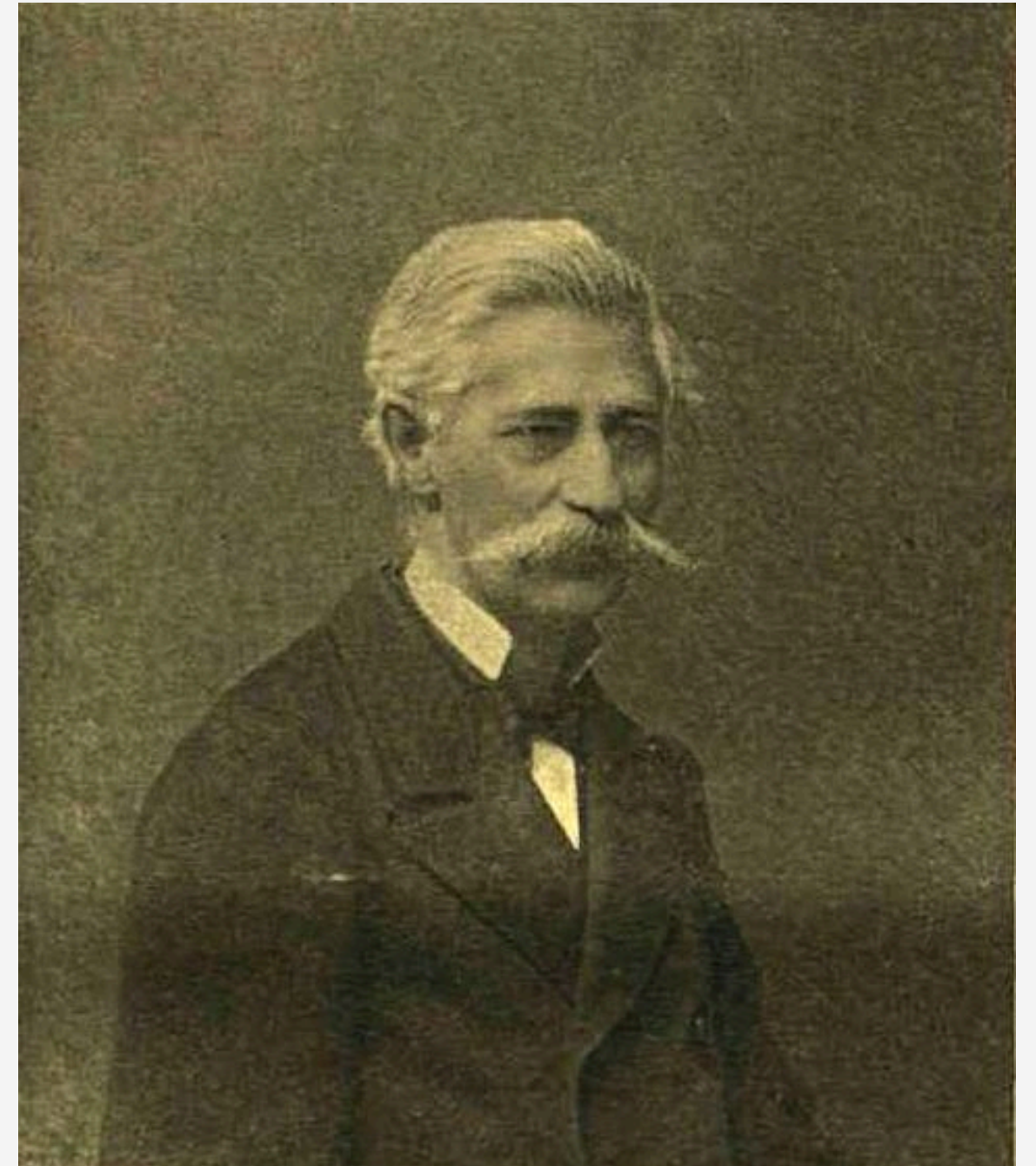
NENDTVICH KÁROLY

- 1811-1892
- Chemist, Doctor, Botanist, Politician
- Member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences



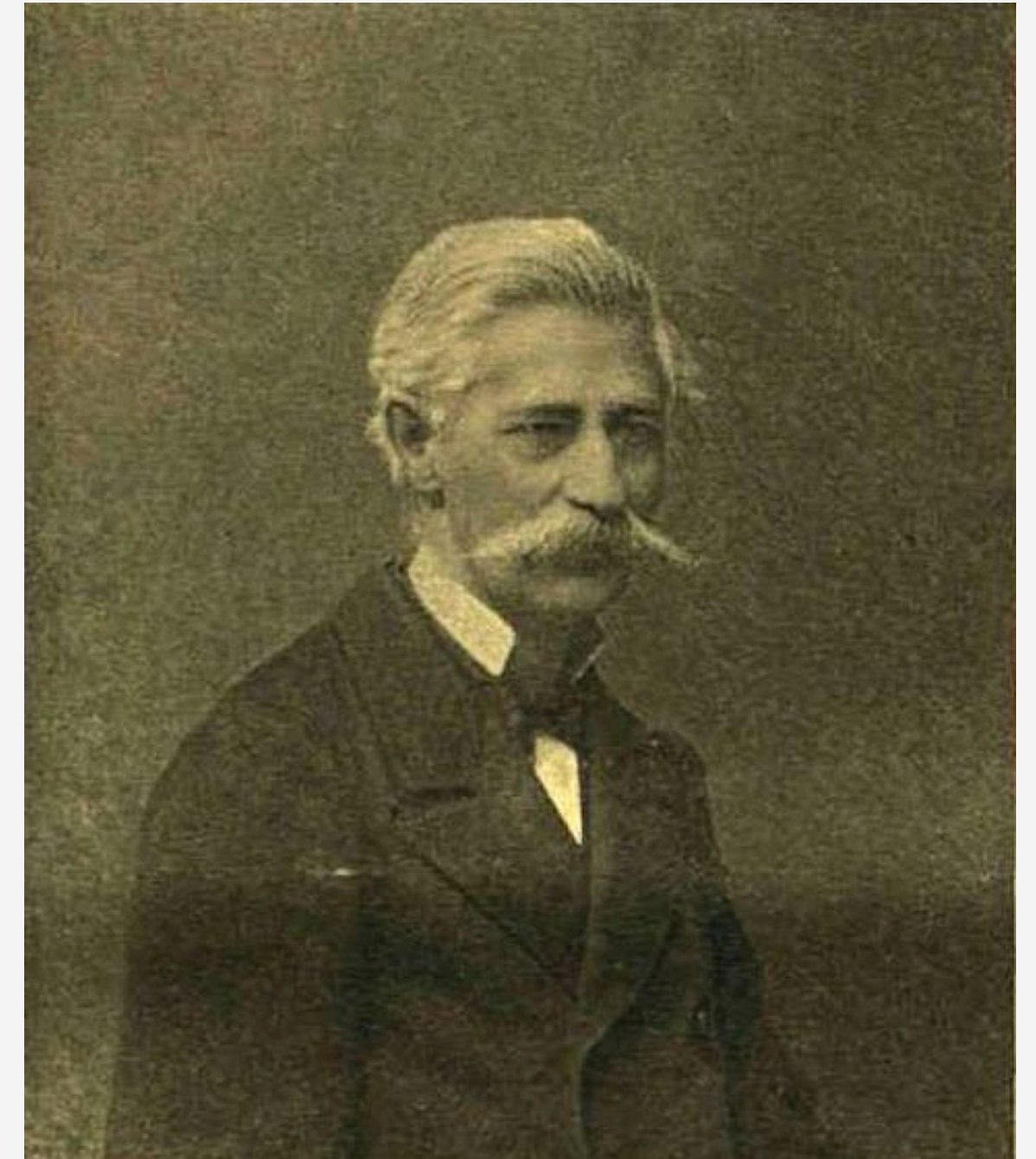
NENDTVICH KÁROLY

“The dispute between the two of you concerns mainly the relationship between the real and human sciences. It is a debate which has occupied the whole of intellectual Europe for at least half a century, and is therefore important enough for us to make some contribution.”



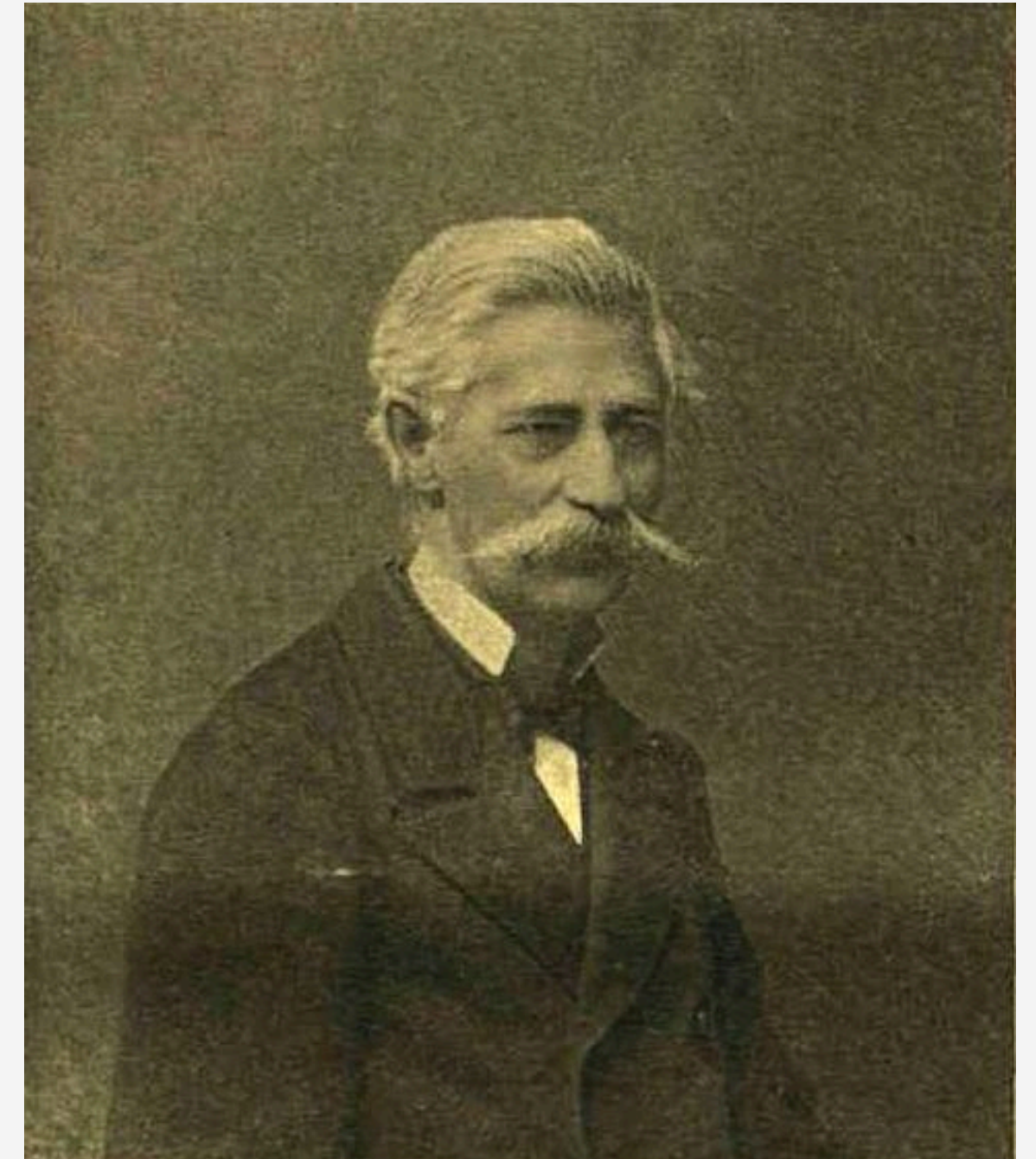
NENDTVICH KÁROLY

- **What is Science?**
 - “All science, considering the whole human race, is useful, and important, if it cultivates one of the noble talents of our soul or body.”



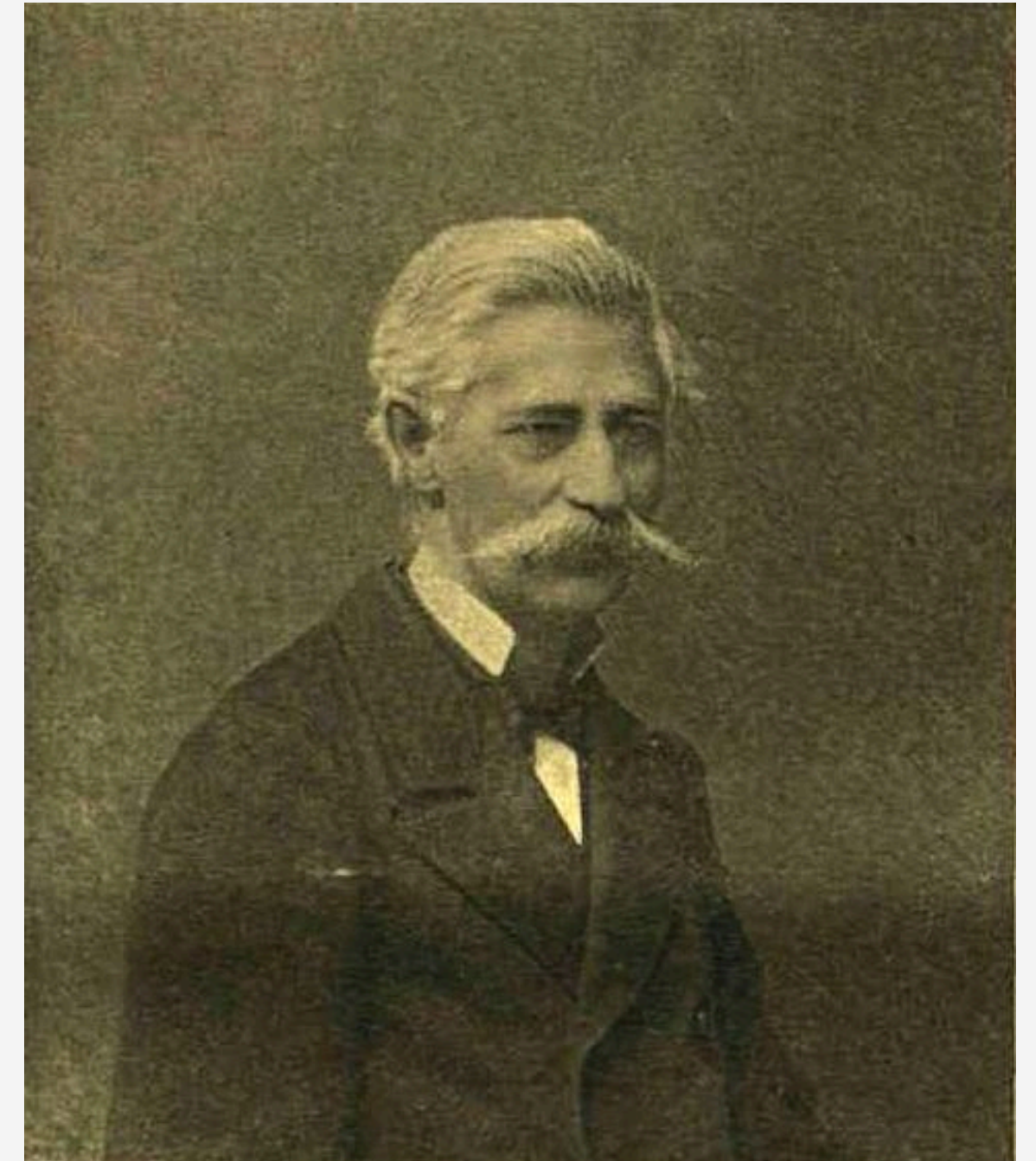
NENDTVICH KÁROLY

- **Relationship between the sciences**
 - “The human sciences constitute a stepping stone in human development, from which the natural sciences can rise further and higher.”



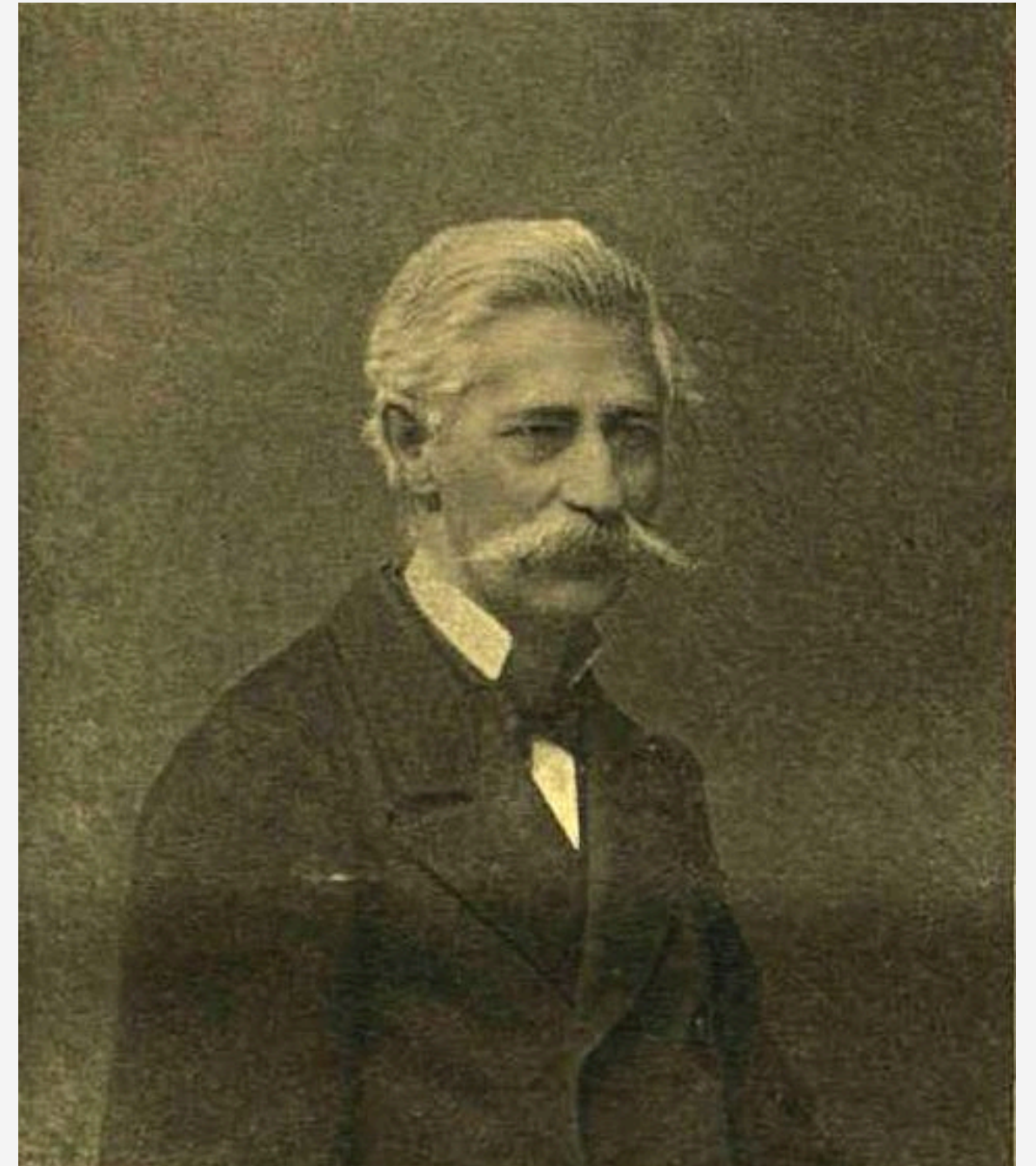
NENDTVICH KÁROLY

"I do not think there is anyone who would deny that the highest and most worthy aim of human reason is the search for and knowledge of the immutable laws of eternal nature. I will go further: **this alone can be the long-standing aim of all our science,** of all our diving. Nor can anyone deny that the more human reason knows the eternal laws of nature, the more it approaches God."



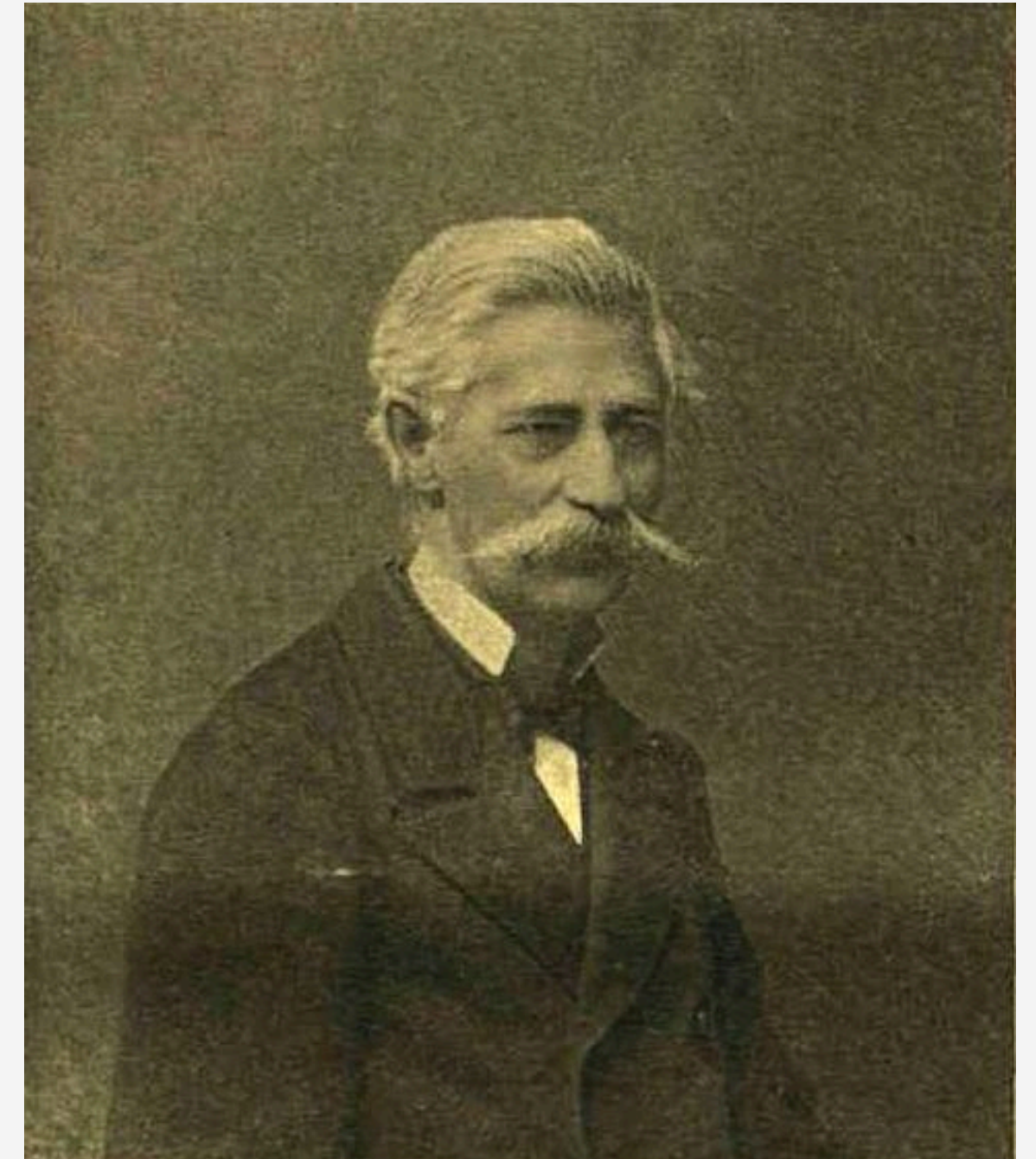
NENDTVICH KÁROLY

"Science, in fact, is only that which is drawn from experience, and which conforms to the eternal laws of nature."



NENDTVICH KÁROLY

- Science makes way for the humanities through production and technology
 - I.e. the library exists because of printing press
- Takes issue with proportion of Sciences in state education



NENDTVICH KÁROLY

“It is the **sacred vocation** of the academy to use all the means at its disposal to **disseminate and cultivate the natural and real sciences**; if the means are lacking, it should endeavour to provide them.”

