

# Reformation: End-time Living

Seventh-day Adventism and Preparing for the Time of the End

- A revival and a reformation must take place under the ministration of the Holy Spirit. Revival and reformation are two different things. Revival signifies a renewal of spiritual life, a quickening of the powers of mind and heart, a resurrection from the spiritual death. Reformation signifies a reorganization, a change in ideas and theories, habits and practices. Reformation will not bring forth the good fruit of righteousness unless it is connected with the revival of the Spirit. Revival and reformation are to do their appointed work, and in doing this work they must blend.-- *Review and Herald*, Feb. 25, 1902.



# Continuing the Reformation





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“The Reformation did not, as many suppose, end with Luther. It is to be continued to the close of this world's history. Luther had a great work to do in reflecting to others the light which God had permitted to shine upon him; yet he did not receive all the light which was to be given to the world. From that time to this, new light has been continually shining upon the Scriptures, and new truths have been constantly unfolding.” *Great Controversy*, pp. 148, 149.

# Preparing a People

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“To us, as God's servants, has been entrusted the third angel's message, the binding-off message, that is to prepare a people for the coming of our King.” *Life Sketches*, p. 423.

# Will Separate Us from the World

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“When we reach the standard that the Lord would have us reach, worldlings will regard Seventh-day Adventists as odd, singular, strait-laced extremists.” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 289.



# Country Living

“It was not God's purpose that people should be crowded into cities, huddled together in terraces and tenements. In the beginning He placed our first parents amidst the beautiful sights and sounds He desires us to rejoice in today. The more nearly we come into harmony with God's original plan, the more favorable will be our position to secure health of body, and mind, and soul.” *The Ministry of Healing*, pp. 363-365. (1905)

# Health Reform



# Health Reform

“You need clear, energetic minds, in order to appreciate the exalted character of the truth, to value the atonement, and to place the right estimate upon eternal things. If you pursue a wrong course, and indulge in wrong habits of eating, and thereby weaken the intellectual powers, you will not place that high estimate upon salvation and eternal life which will inspire you to conform your life to the life of Christ; you will not make those earnest, self-sacrificing efforts for entire conformity to the will of God, which His word requires and which are necessary to give you a moral fitness for the finishing touch of immortality.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 47.

# Health Reform

“Anything that lessens physical strength enfeebles the mind, and makes it less capable of discriminating between right and wrong. We become less capable of choosing the good, and have less strength of will to do that which we know to be right.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, pp. 48-49.

# Health Reform

“Those who, having had the light upon the subject of eating and dressing with simplicity, in obedience to moral and physical laws, still turn from the light which points out their duty, will shun duty in other things. By shunning the cross which they would have to take up in order to be in harmony with natural law, they blunt the conscience; and they will, to avoid reproach, violate the ten commandments. There is with some a decided unwillingness to endure the cross and despise the shame.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 49.

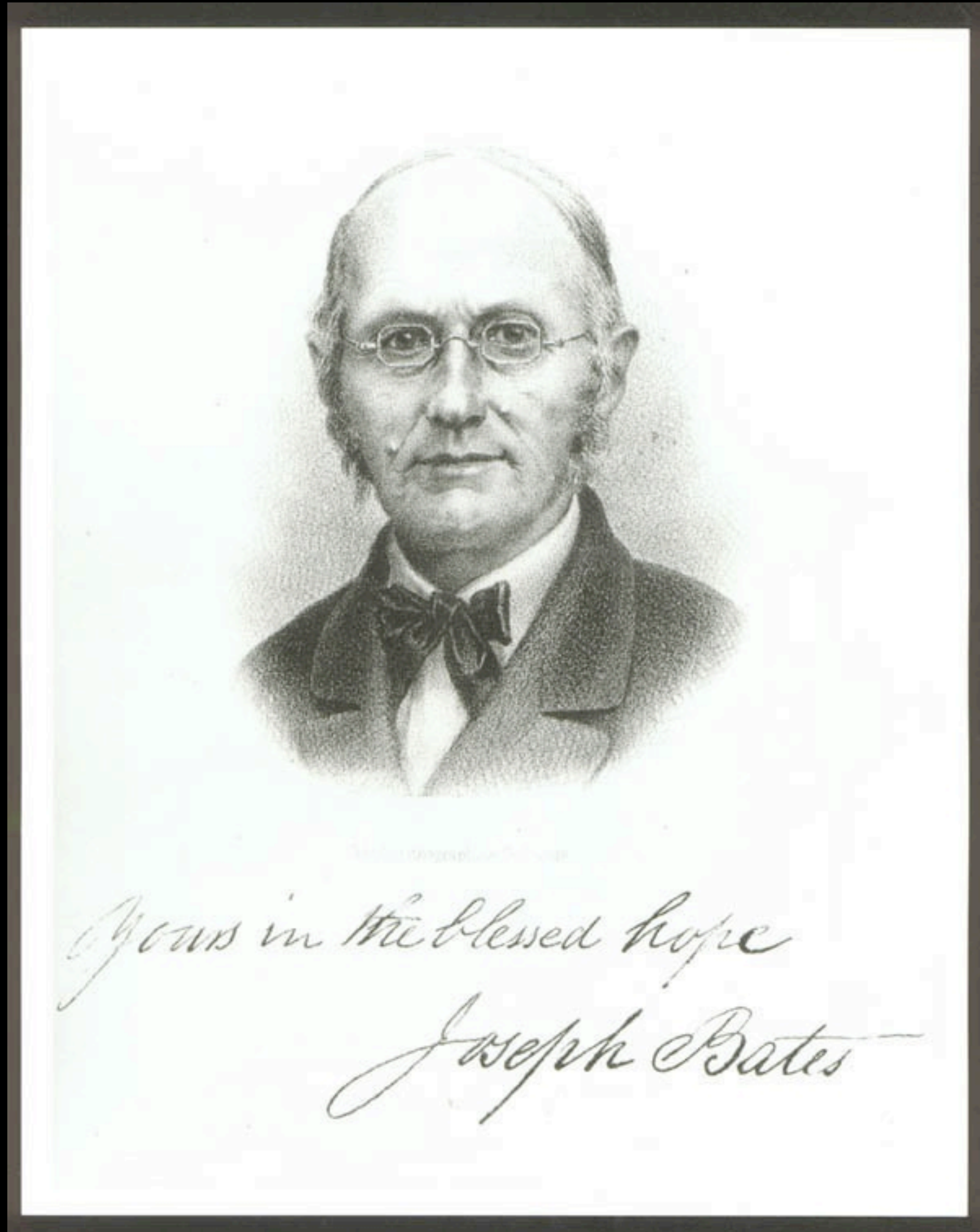


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“Some cannot be impressed with the necessity of eating and drinking to the glory of God. The indulgence of appetite affects them in all the relations of life. It is seen in their family, in their church, in the prayer meeting, and in the conduct of their children. It has been the curse of their lives. You cannot make them understand the truths for these last days. God has bountifully provided for the sustenance and happiness of all His creatures; and if His laws were never violated, and all acted in harmony with the divine will, health, peace, and happiness, instead of misery and continual evil, would be experienced.” *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 54.

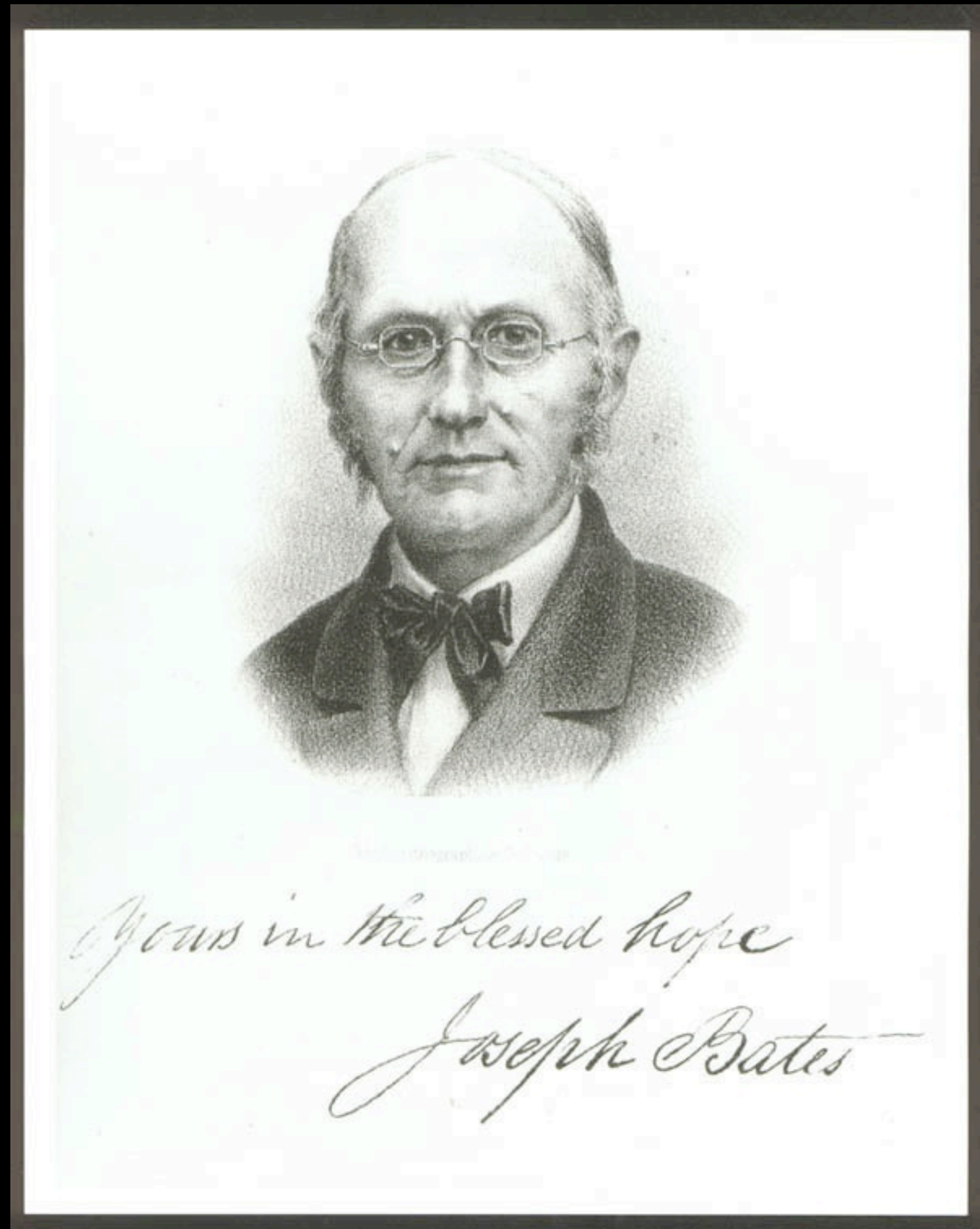
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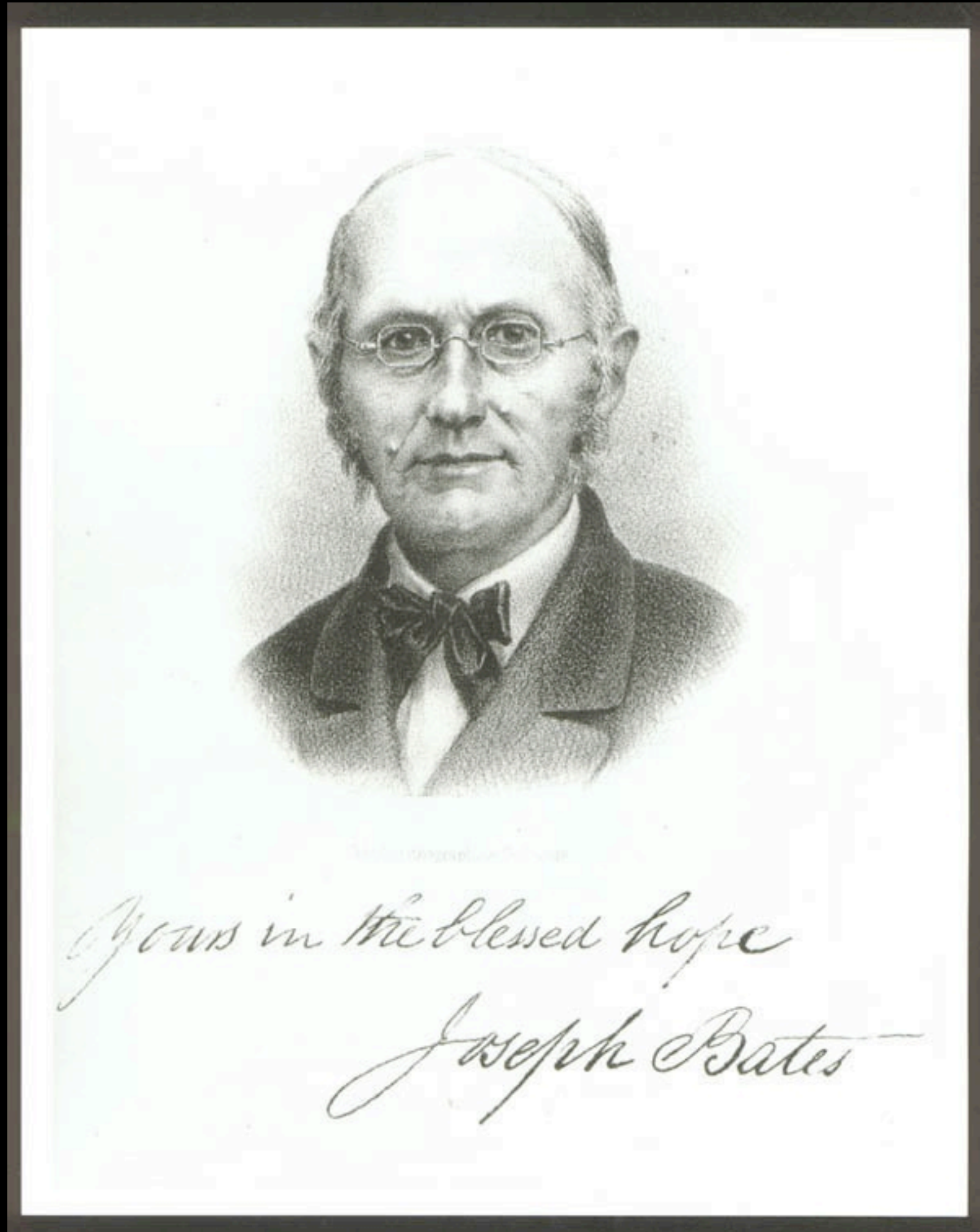
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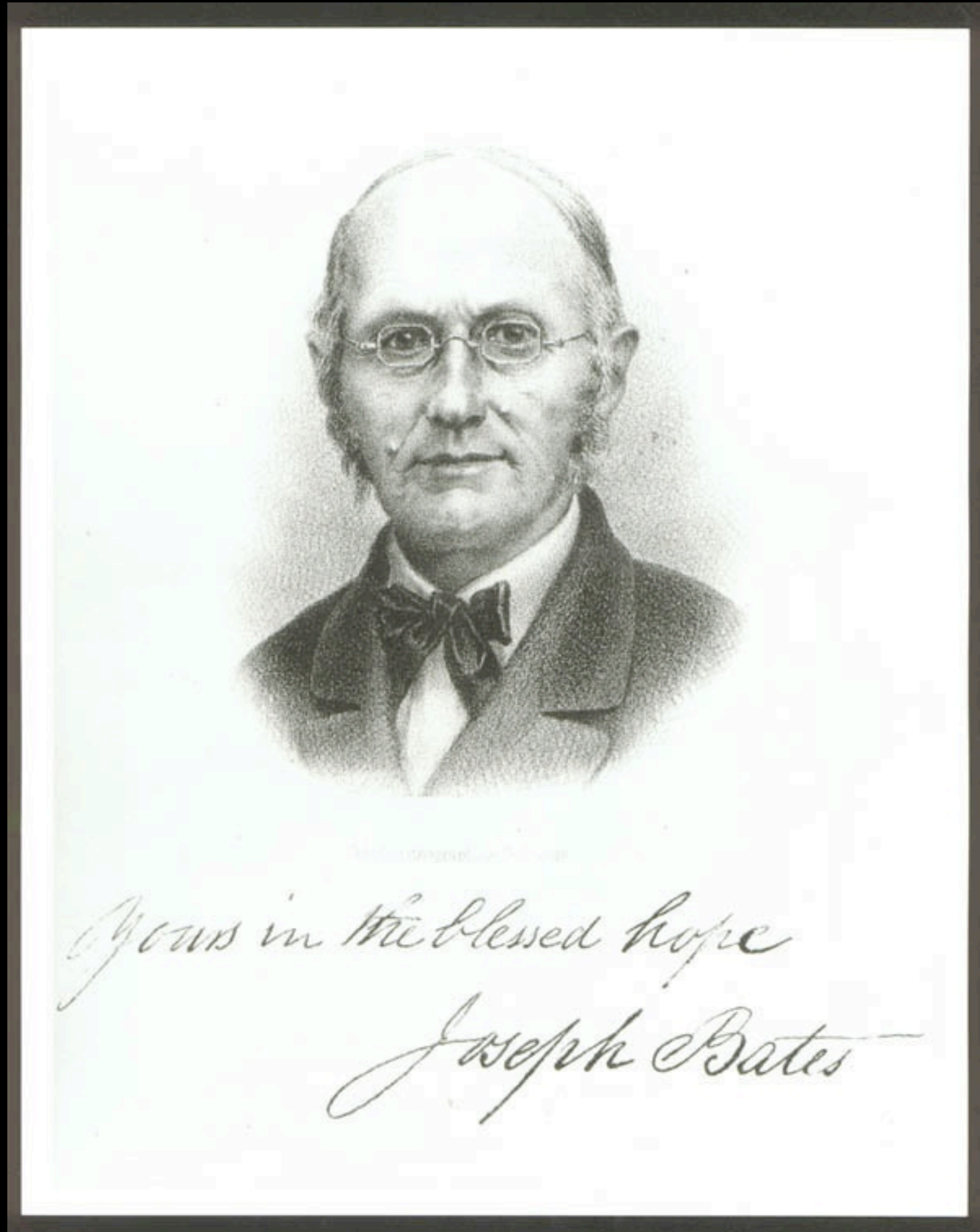


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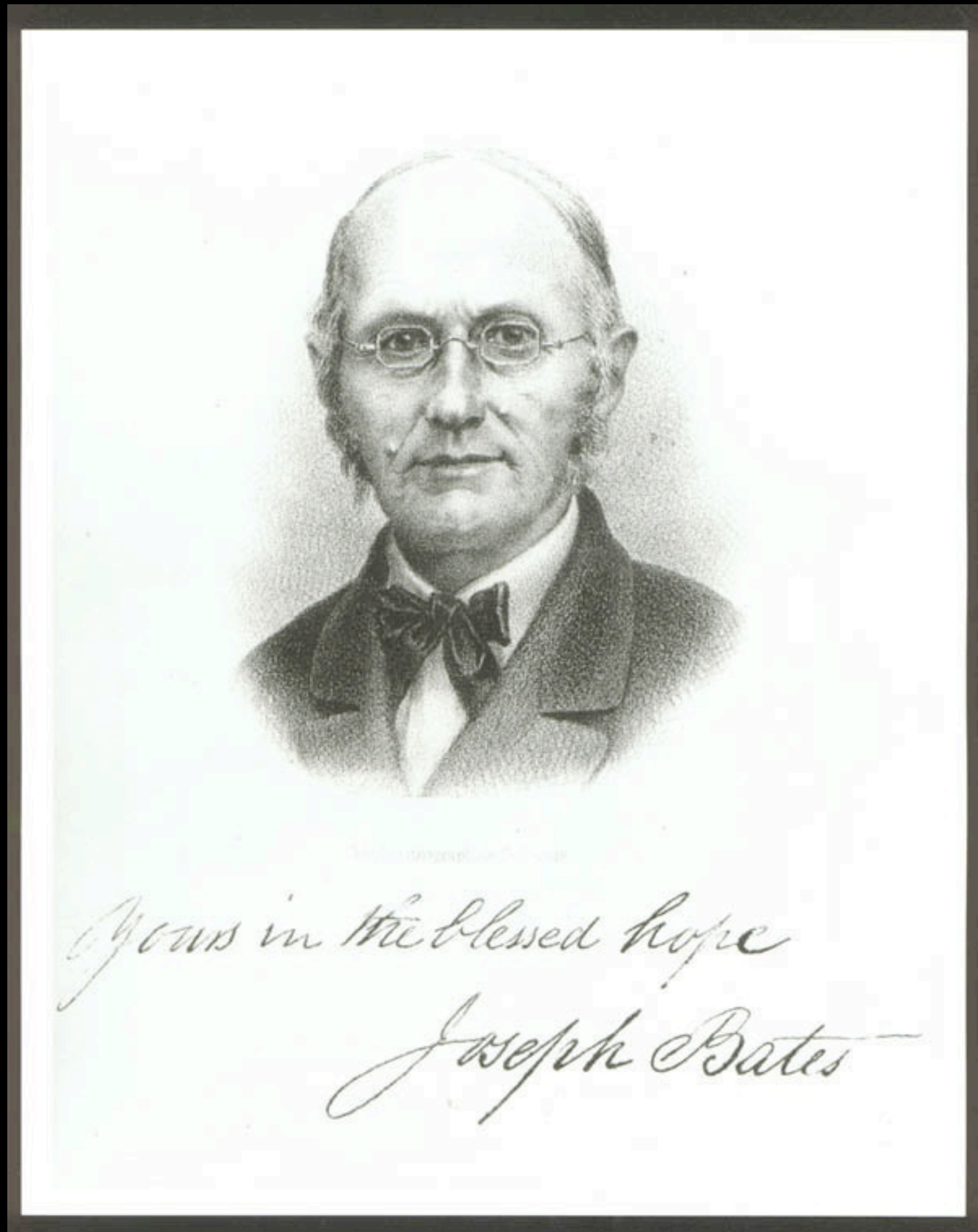
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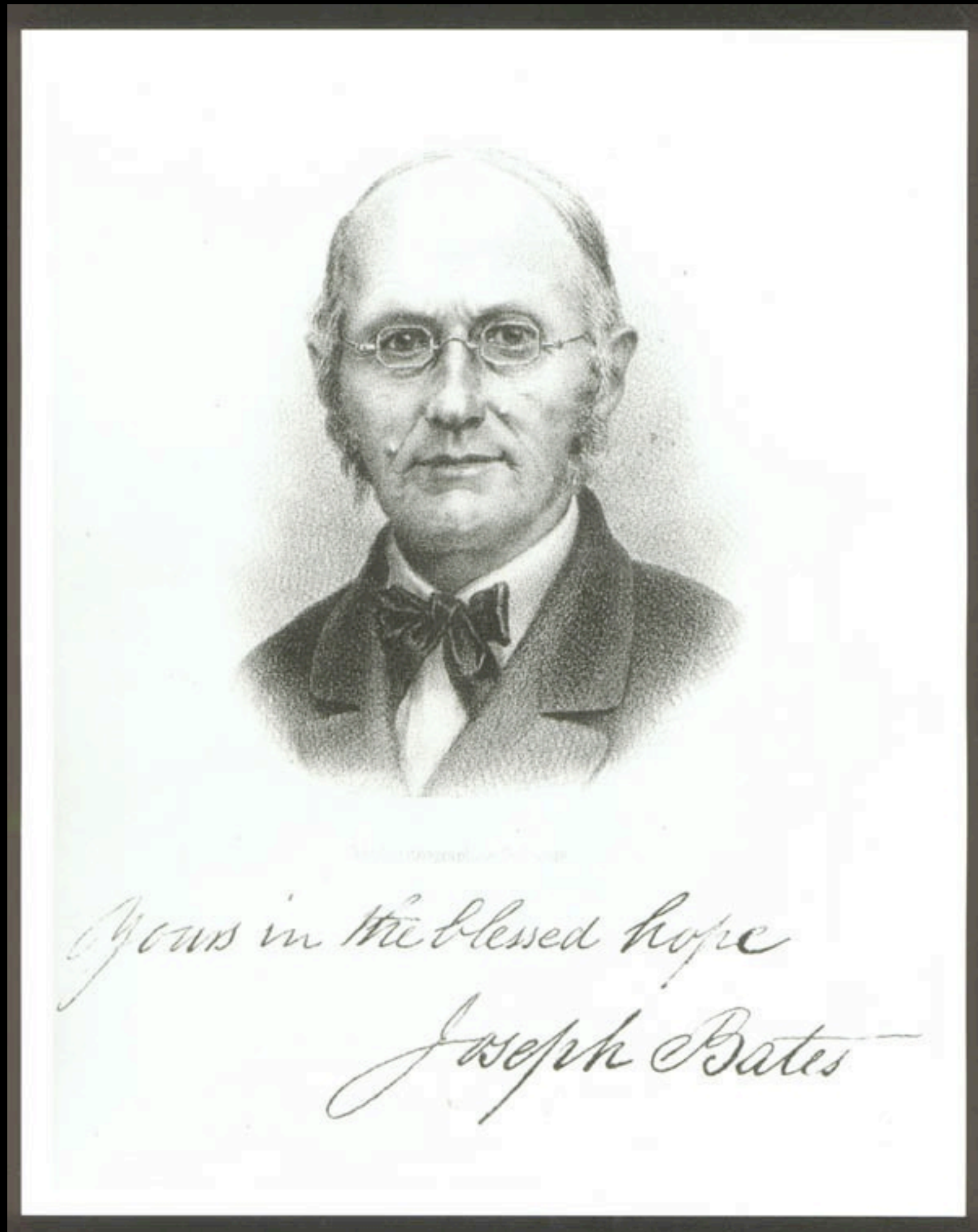


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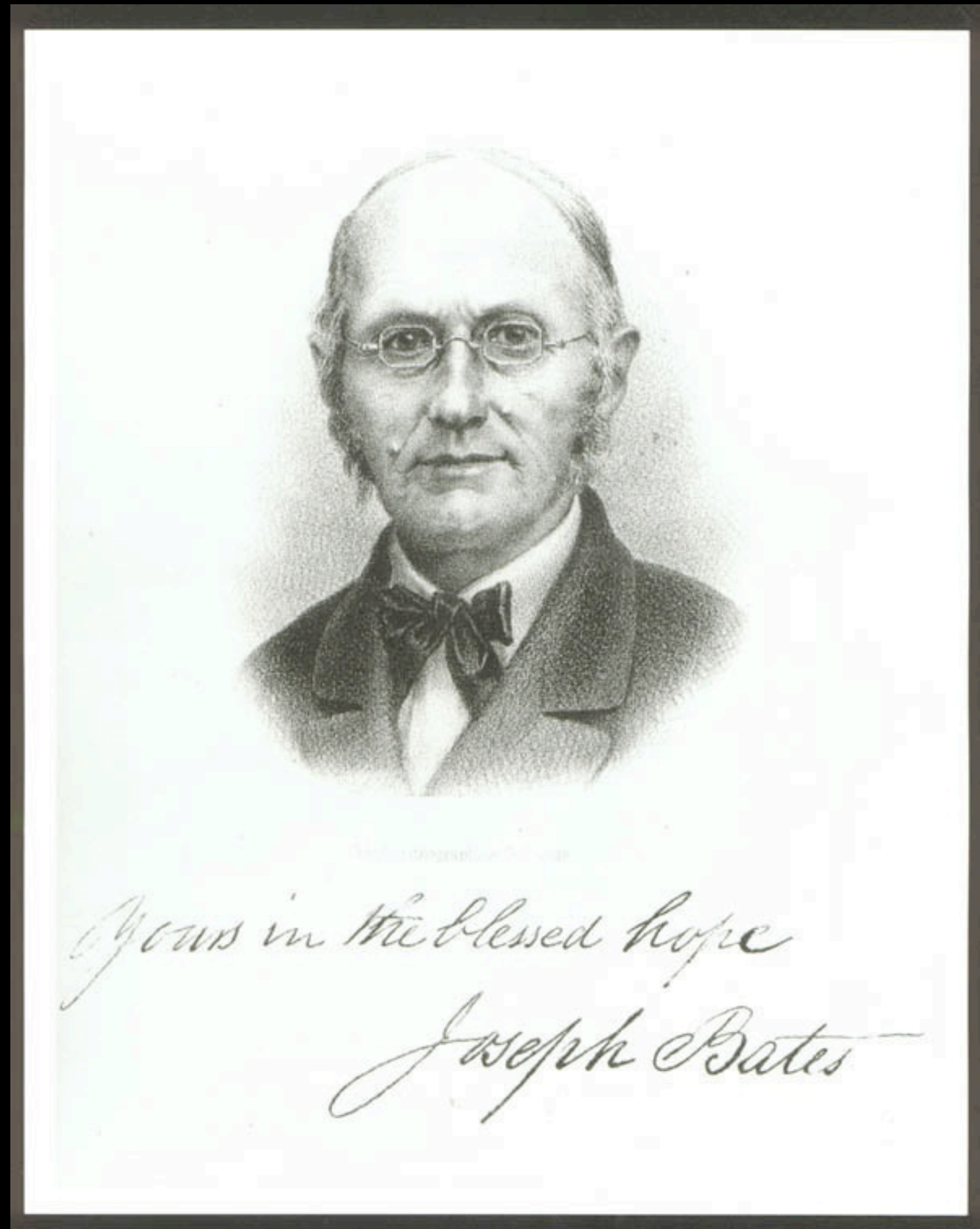
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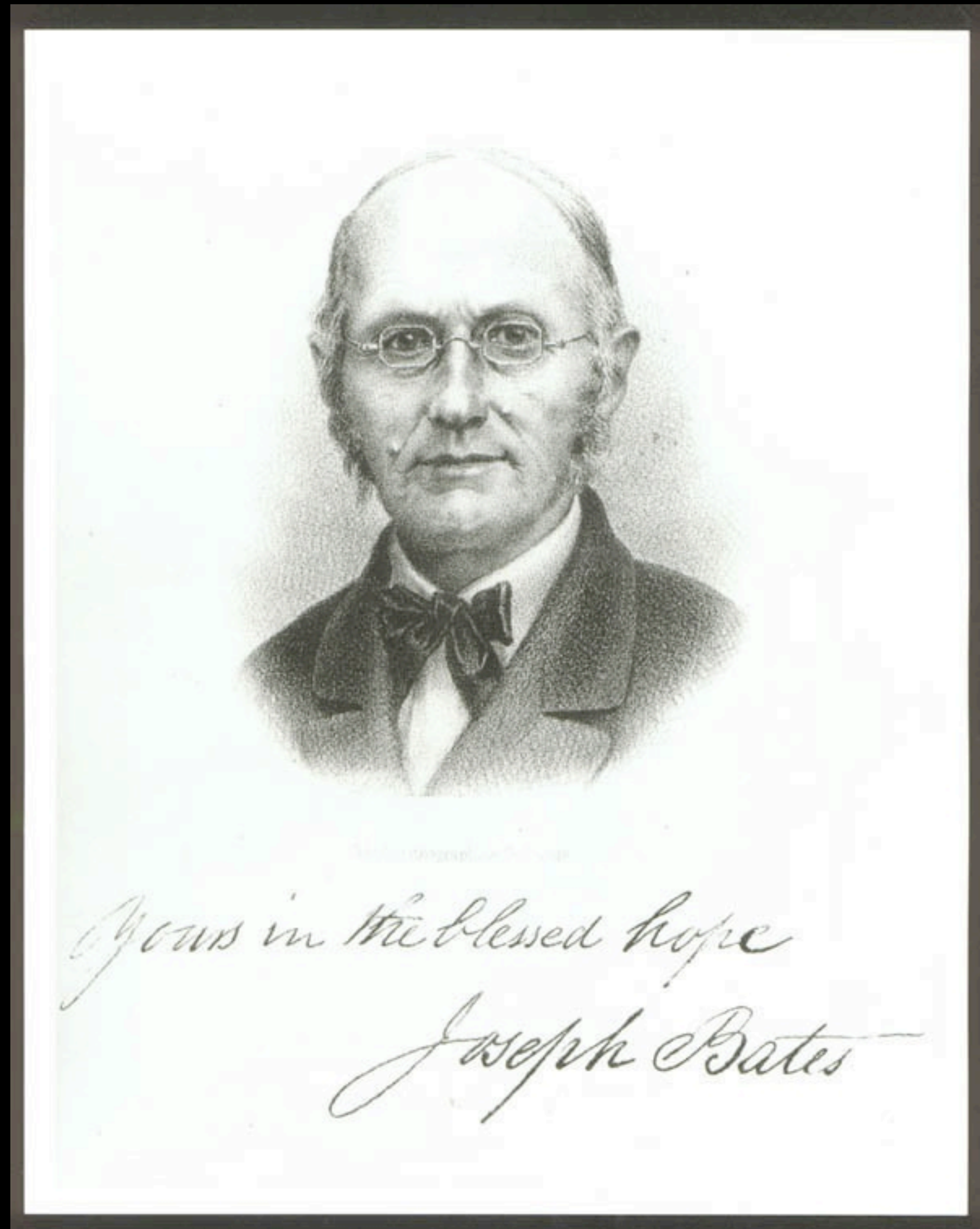


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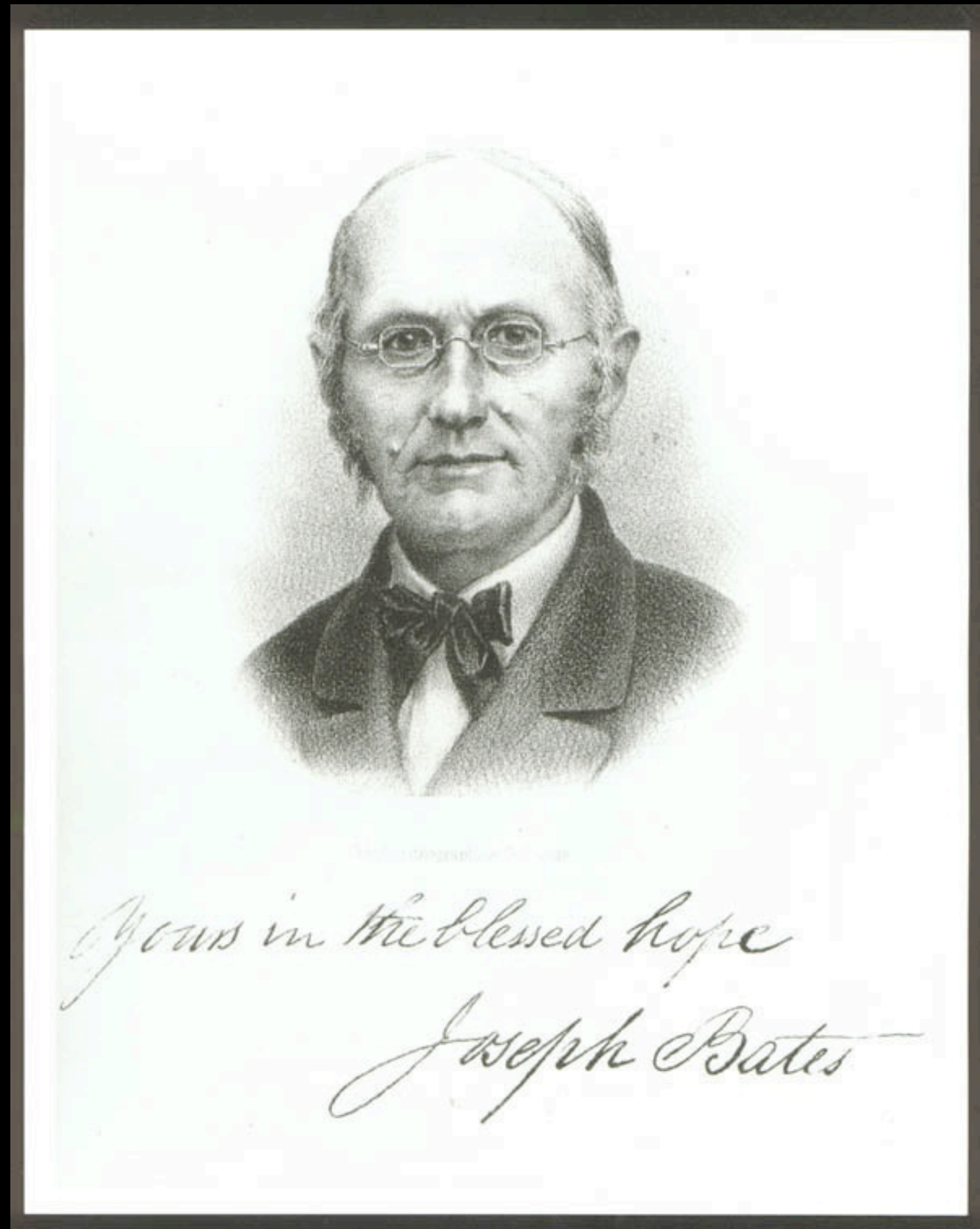
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- 1850 - JW and EGW discourage those teaching regarding swine
- 1863 - Major health vision at Oswego, Michigan







# The Problem

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- On one hand some take matters of little importance and impose guilt on themselves and others, while on the other hand some treat matters of moral significance with indifference and carelessness.

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- Other examples might include Sabbath observance, honesty and white lies, entertainment, dress, etc.

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- Guilt is a poor motivator!
- Many end up throwing “the baby out with the bath water”!
- How can we know which issues are important, and which issues are not?
- Is there a difference between principle and preference?

# What we do know:

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- One thing is certain: willful, known sin will be shunned by the true Christian.
- The righteousness of Christ will not cover one cherished sin. A man may be a law-breaker in heart; yet if he commits no outward act of transgression, he may be regarded by the world as possessing great integrity. But God's law looks into the secrets of the heart. Every act is judged by the motives that prompt it. Only that which is in accord with the principles of God's law will stand in the judgment. *Christ Object Lessons*, p. 316.

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- No repentance is genuine that does not work reformation. The righteousness of Christ is not a cloak to cover unconfessed and unforsaken sin; it is a principle of life that transforms the character and controls the conduct. *Desire of Ages*, p. 555.
- Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful. *Maranatha*, p. 82.

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- But what is sin, and what is simply a noble goal to reach?



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- Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. I John 3:4.

# Definitions

- If ministers who preach the gospel would do their duty, and would also be ensamples to the flock of God, their voices would be lifted up like a trumpet to show the people their transgressions and the house of Israel their sins. Ministers who exhort sinners to be converted should distinctly define what sin is and what conversion from sin is. Sin is the transgression of the law. The convicted sinner must exercise repentance toward God for the transgression of His law, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.... The apostle gives us the true definition of sin. "Sin is the transgression of the law." *Confrontation*, p. 75.

# Definitions

- The only definition of sin in the Word of God is given us in 1 John 3:4. "Sin is the transgression of the law." *Our High Calling*, p. 141.



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- And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent. Acts 17:30.
- Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin. James 4:17.

# Not seeking the minimum

- Higher than the highest human thought can reach is God's ideal for His children. Godliness--godlikeness--is the goal to be reached.  
*Education, p. 18.*

# Not seeking the minimum

- God's ideal for His children is higher than the highest human thought can reach. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." This command is a promise. The plan of redemption contemplates our complete recovery from the power of Satan. Christ always separates the contrite soul from sin. He came to destroy the works of the devil, and He has made provision that the Holy Spirit shall be imparted to every repentant soul, to keep him from sinning. *Desire of Ages*, p. 311.



# Replace sin with something better.

- When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.
- Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth [it] empty, swept, and garnished.
- Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last [state] of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.  
Matthew 12:43-45.

# Replace sin with something better

- "Something better" is the watchword of education, the law of all true living. Whatever Christ asks us to renounce, He offers in its stead something better. *Education*, p. 296.

# Replace sin with something better

- True religion brings man into harmony with the laws of God, physical, mental, and moral. It teaches self-control, serenity, temperance. Religion ennobles the mind, refines the taste, and sanctifies the judgment. It makes the soul a partaker of the purity of heaven. Faith in God's love and overruling providence lightens the burdens of anxiety and care. It fills the heart with joy and contentment in the highest or the lowliest lot. Religion tends directly to promote health, to lengthen life, and to heighten our enjoyment of all its blessings. It opens to the soul a never-failing fountain of happiness. Would that all who have not chosen Christ might realize that He has something vastly better to offer them than they are seeking for themselves. *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 600.

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- Many are living as close to sin as possible. After all, “It’s not a moral issue.” Usually these end up below the line of morality.
- Many others are trying to make the ideals, the “something better” that God wants us to enjoy, compulsory. They impugn guilt on themselves and others when they fall short.



Example

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- Eating clean meat is not sin: God has given us permission to do so.

# Example

- While we do not make the use of flesh-meat a test, while we do not want to force anyone to give up its use, yet it is our duty to request that no minister of the conference shall make light of or oppose the message of reform on this point. *Medical Ministry*, p. 279.

# Example

- In this country [AUSTRALIA] there is an organized vegetarian society, but its numbers are comparatively few. Among the people in general, meat is largely used by all classes. It is the cheapest article of food; and even where poverty abounds, meat is usually found upon the table. Therefore there is the more need of handling wisely the question of meat eating. In regard to this matter there should be no rash movements. We should consider the situation of the people, and the power of lifelong habits and practices, and should be careful not to urge our ideas upon others, as if this question were a test, and those who eat largely of meat were the greatest sinners. *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 462.

# Principle

- I use the term “Principle” to describe that which the law of God requires and I must never deviate from, regardless of the consequences.

# Preferences

- For lack of a better term, I use the word “preferences” to describe the “something better” which God prefers for me to enjoy – and which the converted heart will learn to seek!



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- The devil's temptation is for us to rationalize (the end justifies the means, I'll lose my influence, etc.).
- Daniel didn't rationalize, and neither did his three companions. Other examples: Joseph, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, Elijah, etc.

# Never compromise principle

- Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful. *Maranatha*, p. 82.

Preferences may be yielded



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- When the law of self-sacrificing love requires it.

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- Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend. I Corinthians 8:13.

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- The principles of God's divine law must never be compromised, even for good reasons.
- "Preferences" should not be made moral issues just so that guilt can be used as a motivator.
- God's ideal should be understood and presented in the most winning and positive way.

# The Abundant Life

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- I am come that they may have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10.