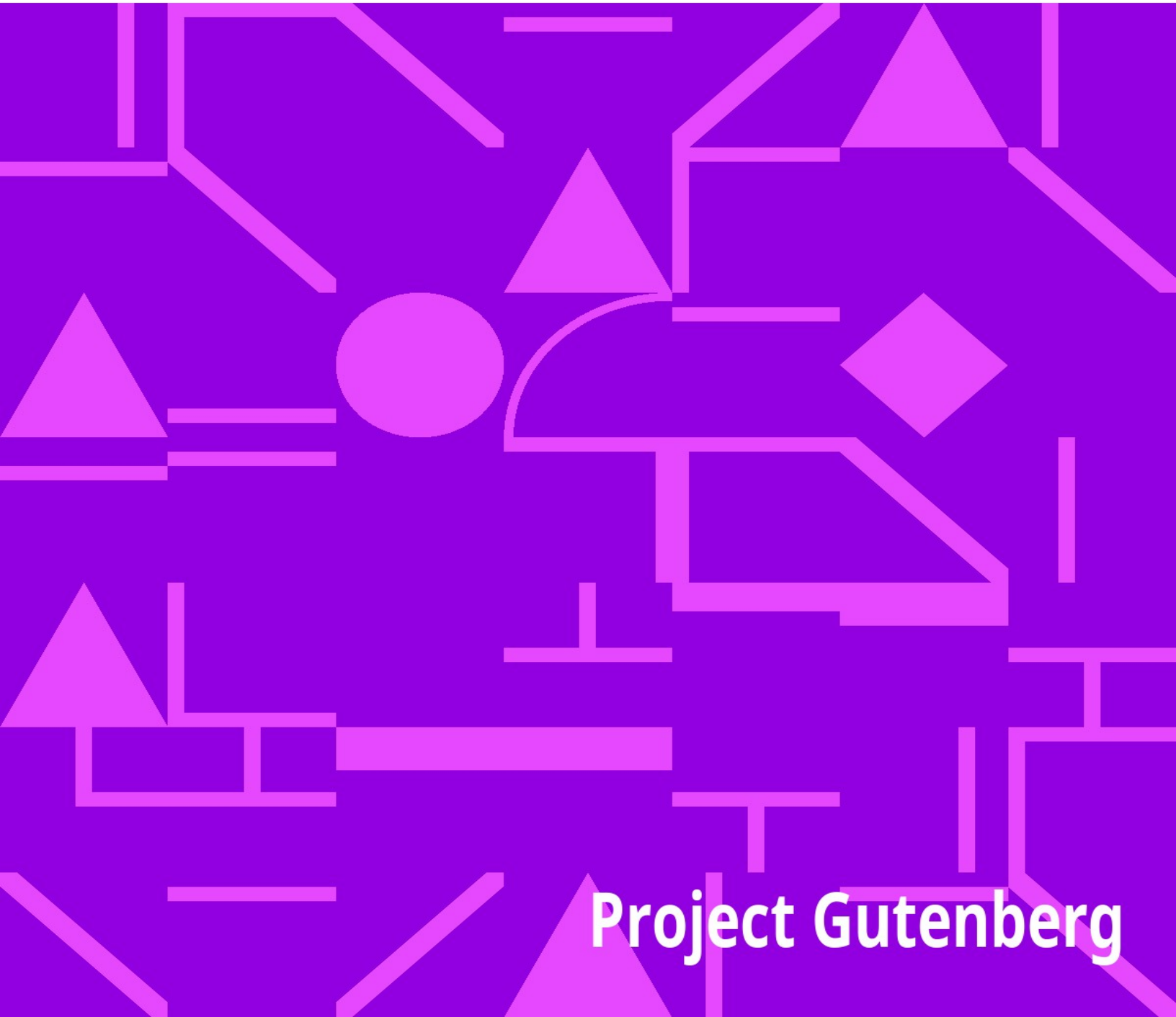


Homenagem ao Marquez De Pombal 1782-1882

Maximiliano de Azevedo



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HOMENAGEM AO MARQUEZ DE POMBAL 1782-1882 ***

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Alberto de Magalhães

HOMENAGEM

AO

MARQUEZ DE POMBAL

1782—1882

VALENÇA

Typographia Commercial

1882

AO

MARQUEZ DE POMBAL

POR

Alberto de Magalhães

Poesia recitada no Theatro Valenciano, no sarau litterario-musical de 8 de maio de 1882.

1782—1882

VALENÇA

Typographia Commercial

1882

Meus amigos

Annuindo ao convite para tomar parte do sarau litterario do dia 8 de maio, recitei a poesia que vai lêr-se, e vós applaudindo-a indulgentemente, desejastes possuil-a.

Publicando hoje essa modesta composição, satisfaço o vosso desejo e cumpro um dever, prestando a minha singella homenagem ao Richelieu portuguez, ao nosso maior vulto politico do seculo passado.

Guilherme d'Azevedo—o distincto e chorado escriptor, esse astro de primeira grandeza ha pouco eclypsado no ceu da nossa litteratura, disse do Epico:

«A verdadeira homenagem a Camões ou se paga com uma epopeia ou com um ponto de admiração!

«Julgo preferivel que o meu humilde nome subscreva antes esta segunda prova de respeito. Terá feito uma obra mais duradoura, e, sobretudo, muito mais incontestavel!»

Eu, plagiando aquella phrase tão conceituosa, direi o mesmo de Pombal. Um ponto de admiração seria uma homenagem mais duradoura e incontestavel do que esse punhado de alexandrinos, que, ousadamente, vou sugeitar ao bisturi da critica.

Que ella leve ao menos em conta a humildade do meu nome, que ha pouco tempo ainda firma, nas columnas ignoradas de jornaes de provincia e nas paginas dos almanachs, umas quadras massudas de um lyrismo piégas.

Valença—Maio—1882.

A. M.

I

De joelhos heroes! Baixai a fronte altiva,
Que passa triumphante, aureolada e viva
A sombra d'outro heroe!—a luzitana gloria
Que ha um seculo morreu para viver na Historia.

É cedo inda talvez para a consagração;
Não 'stão extintas já as luctas da paixão;
E a treva—a emulação—debate-se na liça,
Emquanto não raiar o dia da Justiça.

Mas vós, a mocidade, a esperança do Futuro,
Que altivos caminhaes, com passo bem seguro,
Na senda gloriosa e ardua do Progresso;
Vós, que haveis de lançar ao solo do Universo
A semente feraz da grande Idèa-Nova,
Deveis ajoelhar perante aquella cóva,
Que encobre veneranda a ossada do gigante
Que ha um seculo cahiu em lucta triumphante.

Ide!... ide ensinar ás gerações vindouras
Que ha paginas de luz que são immorredouras

Na historia das Nações!

Dizei a vossos filhos,
Que estão calcados já os gloriosos trilhos
Que hão-de conduzir ao fundo de seu peito
A força da Justiça e a força do Direito!

II

A noite tenebrosa, a noite dos horrores,
Estendia feroz as suas negras cores
Sobre a Europa abatida e sobre a terra inteira;
Apenas o clarão sinistro da fogueira
Illuminava a custo aquella triste scena;
Sentia-se um rumor como o rugir da hyena,
Havia um cheiro forte e acre e nauseabundo
Subindo em espiraes pelo azul profundo;
A carne a crepitar!.. Os gritos lancinantes!..
Como orgia infernal de velhos Corybantes!

Uma sombra indecisa, impavida e soturna
Fluctuava ali á viração nocturna;
Era a sombra do Mal—o negro pavilhão
Que tinha escripto em sangue um lemma: Religião!
E sobre cada corpo, e sobre esses destroços.
Conjuncto informe e nú de carnes e de ossos,
Andavam a pairar abutres esfaimados,
Despedaçando ainda os membros trucidados!

Humildes, evocavam o nome de Jesus,
—O nome da Justiça, o esplendor, a Luz;
Traziam n'uma mão um velho Breviario;

A outra segurava o facho incendiario,
Um Christo sobre o peito, aos hombros uma estola...

Era a turba feroz dos filhos de Loyolla.

Portugal acordou, enfim, do seu lethargo;
Esgotára de todo o calix mais amargo.

Um homem, um gigante, um genio portentoso
Erguera-se de pé, n'um brado poderoso,
E disse sem temor áquellas turbas vis.

«Hyenas! recolhei ao fundo dos covis!
Largai a vossa presa, oh tigres sanguinarios!
De joelhos, chacaes! malditos salafrarios!
Hei-de lavar com sangue o sangue da Innocencia,
Matar-vos como cães, matar-vos sem clemencia,
E arrojard, porfim, ás fauces do abysmo,
Os vossos corpos nós e o vosso Fanatismo...

«A verdadeira Fé succede à Hypocrisia;
A Noite terminou, reaparece o Dia!»

E o braço poderoso e forte de Pombal
Arrebatou da treva o velho Portugal,
Para lançar a Luz, para lançar a Gloria,
Sobre elle, que era só recordação na Historia.

Exhausto e abatido ao sopro da desgraça,
Vergado ao Fanatismo—esse tufão que passa
E tenta destruir os brilhos da Rasão—
Sentia emmurchece na sua heroica mão

Os louros que colhêra ao sol de cem batalhas.
Calára-se o canhão; o fumo das metralhas
Ja não tostava a tez aos bravos defensores
De Diu e de Malaca!

Esses conquistadores
Que tinham offuscado o nome de Veneza,
Que tinham concebido a audaciosa empresa,
—Na febre do valor, febre de triumphar,—
De avassalar a terra e submeter o mar;
Esse povo de heroes, titanico, indomavel,
Que dera ao mundo leis e fôra inconquistavel,
Já não queria colher da Heroicidade a palma.

Elle cuidava só... na salvação da Alma!

III

As gloriosas naus, as naus conquistadoras,
Que levavam no tópe as quinas vencedoras,
Traficavam agora o oiro, os diamantes,
O topazio, o rubi, os limpidos brilhantes,
Que outr'ora o Oriente e hoje o Novo-Mundo
Lançavam sem cessar do seu ventre fecundo!

E todo esse thesouro, e toda essa riqueza,
Era p'ra abastecer a perdularia meza
D'essa turba fradesca—a turba de vadios,
Que não passavam fome e não passavam frios,
Emquanto cá por fóra os tristes proletarios,
Famintos, rotos, nús, sem pão e sem salarios,

lam implorar ás portas dos conventos
As migalhas servis dos fartos alimentos!

Um rei fraco, imbecil, um rei dissipador,
Assim, à imitação do Rei—Inquisidor,
Lançava essa riqueza aos tigres de roupeta,
Que tinham branca a face e a Consciencia preta.

Em vez de edificar escholas e hospitaes,
Surgiam contrucções athleticas, brutaes,
Que erguiam ao Azul, ao seio do Infinito,
As torres collossaes, gigantes de granito.

IV

Pombal surgiu, emfim, e encetou a lucta,
Heroica, gigantesca, audaz e resoluta,
Que havia de firmar a nossa autonomia,
E á Europa mostrar que era chegado o dia
Em que, aniquillada a negra Reacção,
O velho Portugal tornava a ser Nação.

A Industria floresceu e a Arte resurgiu;
O commercio acordou; de novo se cobriu
A vastidão do mar do nosso pavilhão,
Que ia transplantar a Civilisação
E levar aos confins de todo esse Universo
O nome Portuguez, extincto e submerso!

Depois, deixando assim firmado com ardencia
O acrisolado amor da nossa independencia,

Esse homem genial, espirito gigante,
Lançou o seu olhar ainda mais distante:
Reformou a Instrucção—o foco da Verdade
Que póde approximar o Genio á Divindade.

Um dia—horrivel dia!—um rude cataclysmo
Lançou uma cidade ao seio do abysmo.
D'essa terra gentil, que se chamou Lisboa,
Só restava um montão que fuma e se esborôa!..

Pouco tempo depois erguia-se imponente
A nova capital, mais bella e mais ridente...

Calêmos-nos agora!.. Ha-de-se admirar!..
Porque a nossa razão não sabe explicar
Gomo é que um braço sò podesse, sem canceira,
Alevantar do pó uma cidade inteira!

V

Injusta muita vez, a Critica, ingloria,
Quer negar-lhe um logar no pantheon da Historia,
Chamando-lhe cruel, carrasco de mil vidas,
A elle, que remiu as raças oprimidas,
Que deu à escravidão a carta de alforria,
Apontando ao Porvir da Liberdade o dia!

E se elle teve, emfim, manchas ensanguentadas,
Tambem o sol as tem, que ficam offuscadas,
Pela irradiação da sua luz brilhante...

Está limpo o pedestal da estatua do gigante!
Elle foi da Justiça o braço vingador,
Como depois na França os homens do Terror.

Saudai-o Mocidade! Um brado bem seguro,
Apostolos da Luz, videntes do Futuro!
Vós, que saudastes já o genio de Camões,
Erguei-lhe um monumento em vossos corações.
É justo que façais dupla consagração:
—Ao genio da Epopeia e ao genio da Instrucção!

Valença, 8 de Maio de 1882.

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