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CENTENARIO DO MARQUEZ DE POMBAL

8 DE MAIO DE 1882

O DESASTRE DE LISBOA

EM 1755

POESIA

POR

A. d'Oliveira Cardoso Fonseca

LISBOA TYPOGRAPHIA CASTRO IRMÃO *31 Rua da Cruz de Pau 31* 1882

O DESASTRE DE LISBOA

TIRAGEM ESPECIAL

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......contempléz ces ruines affreuses, Ces débris, ces lambeaux, ces cendres malheureuses, Ces femmes, ces enfants, l'un sur l'autre entassés Sous ses marbres rompus, ses membres dispersés.

Voltaire, Poëme sur le desastre de Lisbonne.

O DESASTRE DE LISBOA

Tornou-se escuro o céu, sol não se via; Medonha tempestade se formava; O solo, se gretando, estremecia E n'um abysmo grande se tornava! Lisboa nunca viu tão triste dia; Perdida toda a gente se julgava; As casas, sacudidas, oscilavam E pelo gran' tremor se esmoronavam!

II

O cataclismo nada respeitava; Palacios, templos, casas destruia, E nos tristes destroços abysmava Os miseros que n'elles envolvia. Uma desgraça tal ninguem poupava Á grande mortandade, que fazia: E sob as cantarias deslocadas As gentes expiravam sepultadas.

III

Em mui breves momentos... a cidade O mais lugubre quadro apresentava. Os habitantes, cheios d'anciedade Que tamanho terror lhes inspirava E de Deus supplicando, em vão, piedade, Fugiam para a rua, onde reinava Na triste, apavorada multidão A mais indiscriptivel confusão.

IV

Abandonando as casas procuravam Immersos não ficarem nas ruinas: Mas, aquelles que d'ellas escapavam, Sob o ferro das gentes assassinas, Que d'essa confusão se aproveitavam, Nas ruas saqueando--almas ferinas!--, Succumbiram;--que o ferro lhes tirava Vida, que o terremoto respeitava.

\mathbf{V}

E, qual mimosa flor desabrochada Que cuidadoso trata o jardineiro Por aspero tufão sendo açoutada Barbaramente, perde a côr e o cheiro, E sobre a tenra haste já quebrada Vai definhando, e morre no canteiro; Assim as creancinhas, que perdidas Das mães estavam, eram consumidas.

\mathbf{VI}

E, como se uma tal desolação A flagello das gentes não bastasse, Bandidos houve que com impia mão E para que o terror se accrescentasse N'esta já desditosa occasião, Um incendio atearam que queimasse, Nas devorantes chammas que nutriam, As casas que aos abalos resistiam.

VII

Que perversos instinctos, vis, horriveis Alimentavam peitos tão malvados!... Esses torpes facinoras, temiveis, Dos negros calabouços escapados; Do infortunio ás vozes insensiveis, Sem dó nem compaixão dos desgraçados, Que attonitos nas ruas encontravam, Os mais horrendos crimes practicavam.

VIII

Esses profugos, todos criminosos E talvez nas masmorras pervertidos; Homicidas, ladrões industriosos Que não estão do vicio inda esquecidos; D'entre ferros sahindo furiosos, Por toda a parte correm atrevidos, O terror augmentando na cidade Que entregue fica á sua impiedade.

IX

Dos destroços que as ruas impediam, E centos de cadaveres juncavam, Dilacerantes gritos se partiam Dos feridos que n'elles se encontravam, E lugubres gemidos se sentiam Dos que em terriveis ancias expiravam! Outros emfim, correndo desesp'rados, Ao Tejo se lançavam. Malfadados!...

\mathbf{X}

Mas de repente um vulto grandioso, De excessivo talento e arrojado, Da patria pelo amor tão orgulhoso, Por tantas vezes já por si mostrado; Tantas victimas vendo, pressuroso Tratou de castigar tanto malvado, E com duras medidas que adoptou O negro vandalismo terminou;

XI

E, com essa energia portentosa
De que dotado foi tão largamente,
O estadista de fama gloriosa
Que á patria lembrará eternamente,
A do Tejo rainha tão formosa
Reedificar consegue brevemente.
--E qual flor escapada ao vendaval
Altiva se ergue a linda capital!

XII

Salve, Marquez, a quem Pombal foi berço, Mais tarde exilio, tumulo na morte! Do sepulchro em que ha tanto estás immerso Julgo ver-te surgir altivo e forte: E, Portugal mostrando ao universo, Dizeres:--«Eil-a! A patria... foi meu norte; Hoje, reliquia de passadas glorias,

XIII

Após cem annos de teu somno infindo Esquecido não é teu genio ingente. Da historia nossa as paginas abrindo, Aonde a gloria tua é tão patente, Haverá portuguez que, amor sentindo P'la patria cara, outr'ora tão fulgente, Penhorado não lembre o que fizeste A Portugal que tanto enobreceste?!

XIV

O que importa o dormir da sepultura Após a vida á patria dedicada, Se do tempo ou da morte a lima dura Gastar não póde a gloria conquistada, Que pela mesma morte já está pura Se no exilio não foi purificada?! Festejai portuguezes esse vulto A quem devemos todos prestar culto!

XV

Eis que chega o momento em que a nação Outr'ora tanto d'outras invejada, E que esquecer não sabe a gratidão Áquelle por quem foi tão levantada, Tributa cordeal veneração, De nobres sentimentos animada, Ao estadista que a *nenhum respeito O proprio reino qu'ria ver sujeito*.

XVI

Exultemos de ver agradecida A patria, n'um festejo nacional, Da sua elevação não esquecida, Que deve ao nobre filho de Pombal; Por tão soberbo jubilo movida, Celebrar centenario ao immortal Conde d'Oeiras, de Pombal Marquez, No sangue e n'alma puro portuguez.

XVII

Oh! salve, minha patria idolatrada, De eminentes varões inclyto berço; Por heroes excelentes illustrada; E engrandecida á face do Universo Por esse vulto enorme, alma elevada Por quem, no meu singelo e pobre verso Este sincero voto aqui registro:--«Gloria immortal ao immortal ministro!»

Lisboa, abril de 1882.

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