

## The Project Gutenberg eBook of Soldados da Revolução, by Antero de Quental and Rodrigo Veloso

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**Title:** Soldados da Revolução

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**Editor:** Rodrigo Veloso

**Release Date:** September 15, 2009 [EBook #29997]

**Language:** Portuguese

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\*\*\* START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK SOLDADOS DA REVOLUÇÃO \*\*\*

# ANTHERO DE QUENTAL

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SOLDADOS DA REVOLUÇÃO

BARCELLOS  
Typographia da *Aurora do Cavado*  
Editor—*R. V.*  
1896

Tiragem apenas de 100 exemplares:

20 em papel de linho.

80 em papel d'algodão.

N.º\_\_

Em 1889 publicou o sr. Fernando Leal, o eminente poeta dos *Reflexos e Penumbras* e dos *Relampagos*, dous primores da nossa litteratura, *Os Soldados da Revolução* de Michelet, obra preciosa do grande escriptor francez, precedendo-a d'um prologo superiormente bem pensado e bem escripto, pagina brilhantissima que para Fernando Leal não desmerece coisa alguma dos poderosos e scintillantes versos por elle firmados. Sobre esse livro, e agradecendo ao auctor o offerecimento de um exemplar, escreveu-lhe Anthero do Quental a carta que para este opusculo trasladamos do n.º 79, 2.º anno, do 1 de dezembro de 1889, da *Revista Popular de Conhecimentos Uteis*. {5}

Antecedeu-a ahi o illustrado redactor da *Revista* com as seguintes palavras que gostosamente reproduzimos: {6}

"Ácerca do prefacio do traductor, folgamos de poder, em vez da nossa obscura apreciação, offerecer aos leitores da *Revista* um valioso documento inedito, que representa uma levantada e auctorisadissima critica do alludido trabalho, feita por um dos nossos maiores pensadores e escriptores. É uma carta escripta por Anthero do Quental a Fernando Leal.

"Os escriptos do grande poeta das *Odes modernas* e do livro dos *Sonetos*, do eminente publicista das *Causas da decadencia dos povos peninsulares*, além do seu alto valor intrinseco, teem a realçar-lhes a valia estimativa o facto de serem infelizmente cada vez mais raros. E, se a raridade é um dos predicados que tornam precioso o mais precioso dos mineraes, os escriptos de Anthero não possuem menos os outros predicados que realçam o diamante: a rijeza e o esplendor da fórma em perfeita harmonia com a idéa. {7}

"No inédito que publicamos, com quanto seja uma simples carta particular, e por isso mesmo, admiram-se mais uma vez aquellas altas qualidades de um espirito propenso á critica superior dos factos e á synthese philosophica que d'elles deriva. E, na verdade, Anthero do Quental é de todos os escriptores portuguezes, senão o unico, sem duvida aquelle a quem melhor cabe o nome augusto de *philosopho*; embora n'um recente escripto lh'o tenha negado, com audacia e a irreflexão naturaes em verdes annos, um moço critico, aliás de grande talento, o sr. Guilherme Moniz Barreto". {8}

Rodrigo Velloso {9}

## SOLDADOS DA REVOLUÇÃO

Villa do Conde, 8 de fevereiro.—*Meu caro amigo*.—Obrigado pelo prazer que me deu com o seu prologo aos *Soldados da Revolução*. É excellente: pensado, sentido e *escripto*. O Fernando é dos poucos que ainda sabem escrever em portugûes. E quem sabe escrever e tem que dizer não deve estar calado. Escreva pois, que isso ha de fazer-lhe bem. O Fernando precisa *distrahir-se*: mas, para um homem do seu sentir, as *distracções* que servem aos outros não lhe podem servir. Só o pode distrahir o trabalho, esse grande narcotico, esse dictame, dom dos Deuses, sem o qual a vida dos homens que pensam intensamente seria intoleravel. Escreva, pois como quizer, sobre o que quizer, prosa ou verso, que já d'aqui lhe asseguro que nunca lhe ha de sahir cousa somenos. A conclusão do seu prologo é a de um moralista, e a unica que, no meio do naufragio de tantas esperanças, abrigará ainda as consciencias sãs; *fais ce que doit, advienne que pourra*. Mas não se entristeça de mais com o que vê. A burguezia deu o que podia dar, não se lhe pode exigir mais. {10}

Uma classe nunca pode ser um apostolo: é simplesmente um elemento, uma força, cujo *acto* é determinado pela energia inicial. O que dará a democracia? Quem poderá dizel-o! É o escopulo onde até hoje teem naufragado todas as sociedades. Será que a sociedade, em quanto dividida em classes, que reagem umas sobre as outras e mutuamente se estimulam, e em quanto essas classes teem, como taes, um fim a cumprir, uma aspiração, um ideal, será, digo, que a sociedade, n'essas condições, constitua um *meio* mais proprio para a producção do civismo e para a tempera dos caracteres? e que, realisadas aquellas ideias, cessando aquelle estímulo, o homem, que aquella lucta levantára como que acima de si mesmo, tenha fatalmente de cahir na condição primitiva, na do animal de que descende, só preoccupado com materialidades e visionices? Não sei: mas o que é certo é que não ha sociedade, por decadente e inferior, onde a virtude não seja possivel: e, se a virtude é o fim ultimo da vida, por conseguinte da sociedade, que não é mais que {11}

uma condição para que ella *possa* dar-se, direi que não ha sociedade completamente perdida, completamente inutil, visto que o fim supremo nunca deixa de se realizar. A nós, espiritualistas e estoicos, deve bastar-nos isso. Sejamos nós os que perante o Universo *justificam* a sociedade em que vivem, por podre que ella seja. Cumpra-se por nós o fim da humanidade, impulso primario de todas as sociedades, e aquella em que vivemos não terá sido, perante o Ser, inutil nem esteril. E mãos á obra. Do bem, ainda o mais invisivel, não se perde uma particula, nunca se poderá perder, atravez do infinito do tempo, atravez do monstruoso rodopiar das fórmas e dos acasos. Guarda-se e accumula-se, não sabemos como, na espiritualisação permanente do Universo. É um *momento* na grande obra do Ser infinito, uma linha, uma pedra, uma areia, na estrutura do seu grande edificio, e, pequeno ou grande, lá ficará eternamente. {13}

Mãos á obra, pois, amigo, e nada de desanimar. Faça o que puder, que *Deus* não lhe exige mais, fazendo-o de boa vontade e de todo a coração. *Elle* ter-lhe-ha o pouco que fizer em tanta conta como o muito dos que podem mais. Comece por tractar seriamente da sua saude, considerando isso um *dever*, visto que é condição para o cumprimento dos outros. Depois verá. Entretanto, tome isso a serio e *distraia-se* escrevendo, que, por todos os lados, não será tempo perdido. {14}

Quanto á associação editora dos literatos, acho que é um pensamento sympathico, mas um dos mais irrealizaveis. O que propõe é a final uma Cooperativa de producção. Ora este genero de associação, pela sua mesma superioridade, exige condições nos trabalhadores associados que ainda hoje se não dão em classe alguma. Todas as Cooperativas de producção teem fracassado desastrosamente (e é por isso, entre parenthesis, que o capitalismo prospera, porque não ha ainda quem o substitua), ainda entre as classes trabalhadoras dotadas de mais senso pratico e moral e espirito de disciplina. Mas de todos os *trabalhadores* o litterario é justamente aquelle a quem mais faltam aquelles diversos sensos. Os calafates, ou ferreiros, ou trapeiros valem, n'este ponto de vista, infinitamente mais que os melhores litteratos. Considerar isto é considerar como chimerica qualquer tentativa no sentido do seu artigo. E adeus. {15}

Do seu do coração

*Anthero de Quental*

## FIM

\*\*\* END OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK SOLDADOS DA REVOLUÇÃO \*\*\*

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