

Alexander Search

THE SPEECH

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Before a poor, ignorant crowd
A wild propagandist loud
Shrieked a socialistic speech,
But such pompous terms and thick,
Artistic, scientific
Went with each oratoric screech
That the crowd in silence heard
Wishing of course to applaud,
But expecting a strong word
They could understand, to laud.

«Procrastinators, banditti
Reactionary, servile,
Full-considerately vile!^a
In this way, pompously witty
He talked and the crowd heard on.
«You», he continued, «each Don
Of financial bloated leer,
I excommunicate here
Before Justice throne severe;
You I detest, I abhor. . .»

Here a laugh applauding rough
The wide air from the crowd tore.
«That word», they cried in a roar,
«We understand well enough!»

s. d.

Poesia Inglesa. Fernando Pessoa. (Organização e tradução de Luísa Freire. Prefácio de Teresa Rita Lopes.) Lisboa: Livros Horizonte, 1995: 200.