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MADRID was occupied recently in celebrating the tercentenary of the publication of *Don Quixote*, which has already been recognized in England. The zest with which the Spaniards entered into this festival to the honor of their greatest author was somewhat surprising. If any of our literary heroes requires commemoration we content ourselves with putting up a bad statue where nobody will look at it. We cannot serve the same high purpose with flowers and anthems, eloquence and free editions. But the ceremonies at Madrid were antagonistic to the prevalent British idea of modern Spanish literature as to the prevalent British idea of hero worship. They will be useful as well as ornamental if they persuade the home keeping reader that the country of Cervantes is not played out, but holds no ignominious position in the manufacture of present day pictures. Cervantes has left successors who, if their methods be alien to his, are nevertheless worthy of the lineage.

THE late Sir Robert Herbert had done good work as a link between England and her Colonies. After having been called to the Bar in his own country, he became Colonial Secretary in Queensland and later Prime Minister. Returning home he was appointed Assistant Secretary to the Board of Trade, and afterwards went to the Colonial Office as Assistant Under Secretary. From 1871 to 1892 he was Permanent Under Secretary of State for the Colonies, besides which he acted as Agent General for Tasmania, High Sheriff of London, and a Director of the P. and O. Company. His latest post was Chairman of the Tariff Commission. It was a strenuous and practical career, marked by wide experience.

IRISH Home Rule is looking up. It shows distinct signs of a revival. It can now command the attention of the foremost politicians, which should be consoling to those Irish leaders who are so fond of declaiming against the neglect of Ireland. While Mr. Chamberlain was warning his Birmingham supporters to be prepared for another fight on the question, Mr. Balfour was appealing to the Primrose League to see that the Union should neither be assailed openly by any fresh attempt at Home Rule, or by any insidious attempt which should be called Devolution or be otherwise disguised. Both speeches were demonstrations of the kindly interest the two great opposing parties are taking in each other's welfare. Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman persistently asks the Government to take a rest, seeing that their work is done. Mr. Balfour returns that they would not mind taking a holiday if they were assured that the other side had a programme. So far as Home Rule is concerned, whether the present revival be genuine or only theatrical, the growing volume of talk on the subject supplies a curious commentary on the observation, so often quoted that it has almost passed into a proverb, that "Home Rule is as dead as Queen Anne."

ADMIRAL PENROSE FITZGERALD'S reply in the *Deutsche Revue* to a German criticism on that speech which has called down the wrath of the Germans. By the greatest exercise of charity Admiral Penrose Fitzgerald's article cannot be called discreet, but those Teutonic authorities who are holding the whole British nation responsible for the expressed opinion of a retired naval officer, suffer from an inadequate conception of what a true born Briton means by "free speech." Had a German admiral written in an English review what Admiral Penrose Fitzgerald wrote in the German review, the British should have smiled, discussed it for a few minutes, and gone on their way as though nothing had happened. The Germans, on the contrary, regard the article not so much as an indiscretion as the expression of a national opinion. Some of the