

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1914.

“THANK YOU FOR NOTHING”

The expected has happened in the case of the Home Rule Bill. It is to be placed on the statute book and is decreed to remain for a year, or longer, in a state of suspended animation. Perhaps it will be partially revived; perhaps not, but at present the only compliment which Irish Nationalists can pay to the Liberal Ministry is “Thank you for nothing” During the latter-day career of the present Government, the populace has been considerably puzzled in an effort to determine which party rules in Britain. Certainly the Conservatives have no reason to complain that they are in formal opposition, and the situation as it exists amounts simply to the fact that the Liberals rule the people and the Tories rule the Liberals. The party which has kept the Liberals in power, to the material detriment of Ireland, does not appear to rule anybody. This was just what we always ~~hoped~~: that some international crisis would arise which would drive the two political parties who are enemies of Ireland, into one camp, and apparently the psychological moment has arrived for which Mr. Asquith was waiting all along. The Prime Minister in Parliament on Monday stated that while the Home Rule Bill would be placed on the statute book, “no steps would be taken to put it into operation for twelve months in any event, and—if the war be not terminated—until such further date, not later than the date of the termination of the war, as may be fixed by Order in Council. We are not responsible for the faulty construction of the sentence, but the meaning is painfully obvious. Fancy empowering an irresponsible Privy Council, which is a Halfway house between the Commons and the