

POSTPONEMENT TILL ABOLITION OF THE VETO OF THE LORDS.

Others would postpone Home Rule till after they have abolished the veto of the Lords. But are they going to postpone all reforms till then? Is this to be the sole plank? I do not believe it. Nor do I think that in my time the veto will be abolished, unless the House of Lords stands between the people and their settled will. Theoretical attacks against the Lords will just now be unavailing. We must deal with them practically, by presenting our reform, backed by the resolute voice of the people, and thus making an issue with that Chamber, on which it must bend or break. So it has been in the case of other great reforms; so it must be on Home Rule. But this can never happen if Home Rule is to be shelved the while; and those who propose that course are taking on themselves all the burden of the policy without any of the gains of its active prosecution. Their policy is suicidal.

POSTPONEMENT TILL CONSENT OF THE PREDOMINANT PARTNER

Others would postpone, because "the predominant partner" must first be converted. I protest against this heresy of the predominant partner. The unholy compact of Union was made, not between Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales, but between Ireland and Great Britain. And, if you are, I know not on what authority, to import a term, not expressed in the Constitution, that it shall be changed only on the consent of both the contracting parties, it is the consent of Great Britain as a whole, and not of England, that should be exacted. But never, never, never will that consent be obtained by the policy of laying the question aside! It is not thus that information is diffused, ignorance enlightened, error corrected, misapprehension dissipated, prejudice removed, conscience convicted, conversion effected. Every Liberal worthy of the name must acknowledge that it was not by skulking or shelving, but by pressing onward, in spite of defeat, and all the harder because of defeat, that in just and righteous causes great majorities have been obtained, and great reforms achieved. No