

LORD FALKLAND'S GOVERNMENT.

THE SPEAKER (the Hon. Joseph Howe) spoke as follows :—Mr. Chairman, as some misunderstanding appears to exist with regard to the principles and objects of the present Administration—as reflections have been cast upon it on several occasions when I was in the Chair—and as one gentleman, in this Debate, has insinuated that the Government expects from the Members of this House a cringing support, while another has declared, that, though his head be grey, he hopes to see the Country return to its old Constitution, it would appear desirable that the principles and conduct of Lord Falkland's Administration should be frankly explained to the House and to the Country. On the first day of the Session the Hon. Member from Yarmouth complained that the policy of the Government was not more distinctly indicated by His Excellency : that Hon. Gentleman, or any other, has a right to call for the most ample explanations of His Lordship's principles, but these are not to be expected in the opening Speech. Our Institutions differ, in this respect, from those of our republican neighbours. The Government of the United States is not represented in the two Houses of Legislation by those who are the advisers of the Chief Magistrate, and therefore elaborate statements are made in the Messages sent down to Congress. In the British Parliament, the Crown is represented by its Ministers, who not only preside over important departments, but take the lead in the business of legislation ; and therefore the opening speech is regarded as a matter of form, and a party struggle rarely takes place upon it, except, under peculiar circumstances, where, (as in a late instance,) it may be necessary to give the coup de grace to a retiring Government, worsted by protracted and successful opposition. Though His Excellency, then, may not have gone at large into the general views upon which his Administration has been conducted, we, who stand here to represent him, are prepared to answer any questions which gentlemen may put, and to give the most ample information. Waiting for such inquiries, I have not thought it necessary to trouble