

S P E E C H, &c.

LORD MONTEAGLE, pursuant to notice, rose to move for certain papers respecting the grant of Vancouver's Island to the Hudson's Bay Company. The question was one which involved important public interests, both present and rever- sionary. Those of their Lordships who had taken an interest in the negotiations carried on between this country and the United States of America previous to the completion of what was called the Oregon Treaty, must be familiar with the political and commercial importance attached to the possession of Vancouver's Island, situated as it was between the territories of Russia on the north, and those of the United States on the south. This por- tion of Her Majesty's dominions was at the present moment a possession of great value, and it might become of almost in- calculable importance hereafter. The cli- mate of the island was fine, the soil fertile, its harbours were excellent, and the place was in all respects most favourable for settlement and colonisation; it contained,