

*House of Commons, March 15, 1810.*

Mr. Huskisson, before making the motion of which he had given notice, relative to the issue of specie from the Bank of England, wished to enter into some explanation of the evidence which he had recently given in the Committee of that House upon the subject, and which evidence had been much misrepresented. It was of importance that it should be understood, that at the period to which that evidence referred, the Bank of England had ample means of furnishing His Majesty's Government with specie, had His Majesty's Government exercised the right with which they were vested for that purpose: in the exercise of which right, however, they had proceeded upon a principle of extreme moderation. Had the question of cash payments at the Bank of England been considered merely as a banking question, unconnected with the political state of Europe, he had no difficulty in saying the Bank of England was in a condition to meet with perfect safety any termination of the restriction upon payments in specie that might have been directed. That was the state of the Bank at the period to which he had alluded; and since that period His Majesty's Government had not, by any