

**Volume I**  
**The Rise of the Gold Standard, 1660-1819**

1797 February 28

**Newspaper account of the suspension of cash payments by the Bank of England.** The suspension of payments was originally conceived as a temporary measure, with convertibility scheduled to resume on 24 June, but payments were not resumed until more than twenty years later.

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Yesterday morning at seven o'clock, there was a private meeting of about 60 Bankers at the London Tavern; when it was the unanimous opinion of the meeting to adopt the sentiments of his Majesty's Order in Council, and to support the Bank in the circulation of Notes.

Yesterday was a phenomenon in the political history of the country. The Bank of England refused paying its notes in specie, and the credit of the Country immediately revived. There cannot be a stronger instance than this of the loyalty and spirit of the country; the Consols which had fallen on Saturday as low as 50¼ soon rose to 52½ – but they again declined towards the close of the market.

Yesterday the Bank of England and the Bankers paid only the fractional parts of drafts in specie. The rest was paid in Bank-notes.

It is the opinion of almost every man, that Government could not have recommended a more proper measure than is contained in the Order of Council.

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*Source: The Times, 28 Feb 1797, 4b.*