

THE MONEY BOX

The essay, The Money Box has been written by Robert Lynd. In this essay, the essayist expresses his view of saving money by children. The parents teach their children the value of money saving.

Once, Robert Lynd's niece brought home a money box from the Christmas Tree at a party. As she was looking out how to open the box, it suddenly sprang open. The interesting thing that the author discovered was that no children would ever like to have money box that would not yield its contents to their casual needs or demands. It is true that children are presented with a money box, but it is doubtful whether any child ever saved money in a money box. Lynd, therefore, says that the money box is not a necessary adjunct of the nursery. He means to say that children have no instinct of saving but parents try to inculcate it in children very early. A child may set his heart on a toy revolver, a fishing rod, a watch or a Cape of Good Hope Stamp. He knows that he can secure the object of his desire if he saves enough money. So, when a child gets a money box, he may well dream of saving a lot and of ultimately buying his favourite thing.

Lynd thinks of attacking his money box with a chisel. He can foresee the result. If the lid is taken off, the money box would be permanently damaged. If the slit is widened, the money box would have a ghastly gaping mouth. But the intact slit of the money box reminded him of Mr. Murdstone with his unbending self will.

It is significant how artistically the theme of the essay is developed. The writer carefully describes the reaction of the child to such a gift of money box ^{and} his personal experience with a money box and conflict between the spending self and the saving self. He is conscious of a more unpleasant and serious effect that may be produced by the gift of the money box.