

Analysis

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In this chapter, [Dickens](#) depicts the venerable Tellson's Bank as being in the business of death. Described as dark, ugly, and cramped, the bankers were old-fashioned too. They were proud of it's darkness, smallness, ugliness and discomfort. They even boasted that the bank was all these things, and they believed that if it hadn't been so unpleasant, it wouldn't have been so well respected.

Money, documents, and valuables that go into Tellson's for safekeeping are buried in "wormy old wooden drawers" and acquire "a musty odor, as if they were fast decomposing or being "corrupted."

Tellson's bank transforms the people who work there as well. When the bank hired a young man, they hid him away until he was old. When they hired a young man at Tellson's London office, they kept him in a dark place and aged him, like a cheese, until he had the Tellson-flavor and mold grew on him. Additionally, Tellson's literally sends people to their deaths; the bank identifies forgers, debtors, counterfeiters, and petty thieves who eventually go to their graves under the harsh death penalty. Our unnamed narrator describing the ugly bank transitions into describing the dirty, ugly state of the British justice system