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PARTING WORDS.

DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS.

The time has come when you have to leave the Orphanage, in which for years you have enjoyed the comforts of a happy home and the teaching and training of a good school. I wish, therefore, as a Friend and Trustee, to offer you a few words of advice before you enter upon the more active duties of life.

Let me remind you that the great desire of the generous Founder of this institution was, not merely to provide for you during your residence in the Orphanage, but to

prepare you, while here, for occupying positions of usefulness and respectability after you have left us.

This is expressly stated in the Trust Deed executed by Sir Josiah Mason, and as you have never seen this interesting and important document, I give you a few extracts from it in illustration of the statement just made:—

"Proper arrangements shall be made by the Trustees for the instruction of the children, having due regard to their respective ages and capacities, in reading, writing, spelling, English grammar, arithmetic, geography, and history and such other subjects of general and useful knowledge as may be from time to time directed or authorized by the Trustees. . . . . .

"It is hereby declared to be the express wish and direction of the Founder that all the children shall be brought up in habits of industry, and that as far as practicable, the girls be instructed in sewing, baking, cooking, washing,

mangling, and in all ordinary household and domestic duties, and in other useful knowledge, with a view to their being fitted to become useful members of society in those positions in life to which it may please God to call them, and which He may give them talents worthily to fulfil."

Quite in accordance with the wish thus expressed, is the injunction inscribed on one of the beautiful windows of the Mausoleum Chapel that stands in the Orphanage Grounds, and which is as follows:—

"The Founder of the Orphanage to his Trustees concerning the Orphans:—

"They will be what you make them.

"Make them wise and make them good,
Make them strong in time of trial.
Teach them temperance, self-denial
Patience, kindness, fortitude."

To give instruction that will secure such results as these has been the constant aim of the Trustees and all the Officers of the Orphanage, and I earnestly hope that you will now prove by your life and conduct that these efforts have not been in vain. We do not know to what positions you may be called, but however humble they may be at first, we hope you will remember that the habits of industry, frugality, and sobriety we have encouraged you to form, and the principles of honesty, morality, and godliness we have tried to instil into your minds, will at all times and everywhere prove of the highest value to yourselves and to society, if you will carefully maintain and practise them.

I have used the old-fashioned word "godliness," because there is no other that

better expresses that fear of God, and love of His word to which our Founder referred when he said:—

> "Under the deep conviction that the fear of Almighty God is the beginning of all true wisdom, the said Josiah Mason doth hereby declare it to be his especial desire and direction that the children shall be carefully instructed in the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, and taught to love, reverence, and obey the doctrine and precepts therein graciously revealed, that, through the Divine blessing upon the labours of those engaged in their instruction, the words of the Apostle may be addressed with truth to every child who shall have been brought up in the Orphanage:—'*From a child thou hast known the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*'"

In harmony with these sentiments there will be given to you, with your outfit, a copy of the Bible. We trust you will regard this

as "the best of books," and use it as the chart of life and the guide of youth. Read, at least, a few verses from it every day, and *join with your reading earnest prayer*. Every morning seek God's guidance, and every evening ask for His protection and blessing. Prayer will bring you into communion with God, who has promised to be "A father to the fatherless," and who will enable you to endure hardship, to resist temptation, and to overcome evil, whether from within or from without.

Another source of spiritual good will be found in the regular and devout attendance upon public worship. Sir Josiah Mason felt this; hence he directed that the Trustees should make provision for—

"The assembling of the children for Divine Worship in the Institution, having regard as far

as practicable to the earnest desire of the Founder that the children may be trained up as simple and sincere followers of the LORD JESUS CHRIST, without reference to sectarian distinction or prejudices."

The services which you have attended at the Orphanage have, I hope, been a source of interest and benefit to you, and now that you have come to the time for leaving them, I trust you will regularly attend others in connection with some church or chapel, where you can make yourself at home, and feel that you are likely to get spiritual good.

In connection with most places of worship there are various institutions specially intended for the young. In almost every Sunday School there are **Bible and Senior Classes** for young men and maidens, in which you may secure the priceless advantages of Christian

care and culture. Belonging to many of these schools there are **Mutual Improvement and Debating Societies** which greatly interest and improve their members; and recently there have been established **"Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavour"** for promoting the spiritual welfare of the young of either sex, and preparing them for usefulness in connection with some section of the Christian Church.

In addition to these agencies there are the **Early Morning Schools** for men, and **Pleasant Sunday Afternoon Services** for men and women. These are becoming very popular, and, next to the Sunday School, may be commended to your attention.

For the girls—especially those engaged in domestic service—there is **"The Girls**

Friendly Society," with an organization extending to all parts of the country, and which secures for its members the kindly interest and friendly counsels of Christian ladies of experience and leisure.

There are many other institutions which I commend to your notice in the adjacent city of Birmingham, and similar ones in all our large towns.

First amongst these may be mentioned the **Young Men's Christian Association**, which has its head-quarters in Needless Alley, New Street, and the **Young Women's Christian Association and Home**, 17, Easy Row, both of which offer many advantages to young people such as you.

Then there is our **Midland Institute**, with its valuable lectures, its various educa-

tional sections, and its numerous classes; also **The School of Art**, with its many branches at the Board Schools, all of which on easy terms are open to all.

Adjoining the Midland Institute are the noble **Central Reference and Lending Libraries**, the volumes in which are more numerous and valuable than those in the library of any nobleman in the land, and all these may be freely consulted by you on the spot, and many of them taken out for perusal at home.

Near to these Buildings has been placed a statue of Sir Josiah Mason, but a nobler and more enduring monument to his memory will be found in the **Science College** in Edmund Street, which bears his name, and

was founded and endowed by him. Among its students are some who were once inmates of this Orphanage, and I trust that some of you will secure the advantages of the instruction given by its eminent and learned Professors.

The mere enumeration of so many institutions that exist for the benefit of Young People will suggest to you the fact that though you are leaving the Orphanage your education is not completed. Nay! it is little more than begun; and it is the earnest desire of your best friends that while you throw energy and heart into your daily work and try to gain the character of good and faithful servants, you will devote much leisure time to the improvement of your minds, storing them with knowledge that will be useful in days to

come, and seeking that higher knowledge that refers to "the life beyond life."

Now that you are leaving your old home, I hope you will not imagine that our interest in you will cease. We shall always be glad to hear of your well-being and well-doing. Occasionally we shall hope to see you at the Reunions of Old Scholars, which, as you know, are sometimes held here in the summer months. But should you by distance or other causes be prevented from meeting with us then, I would assure you that a letter addressed to the Bailiff, the Matron, or the Secretary for the time being, will always be read with interest, and any information or advice you may at any time seek will be cheerfully given by them.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace!

Signed, on behalf of the Trustees and Officers of the Orphanage,

J. A. COOPER,
Bailiff.

FOUNDER'S DAY,
February 23rd, 1890.

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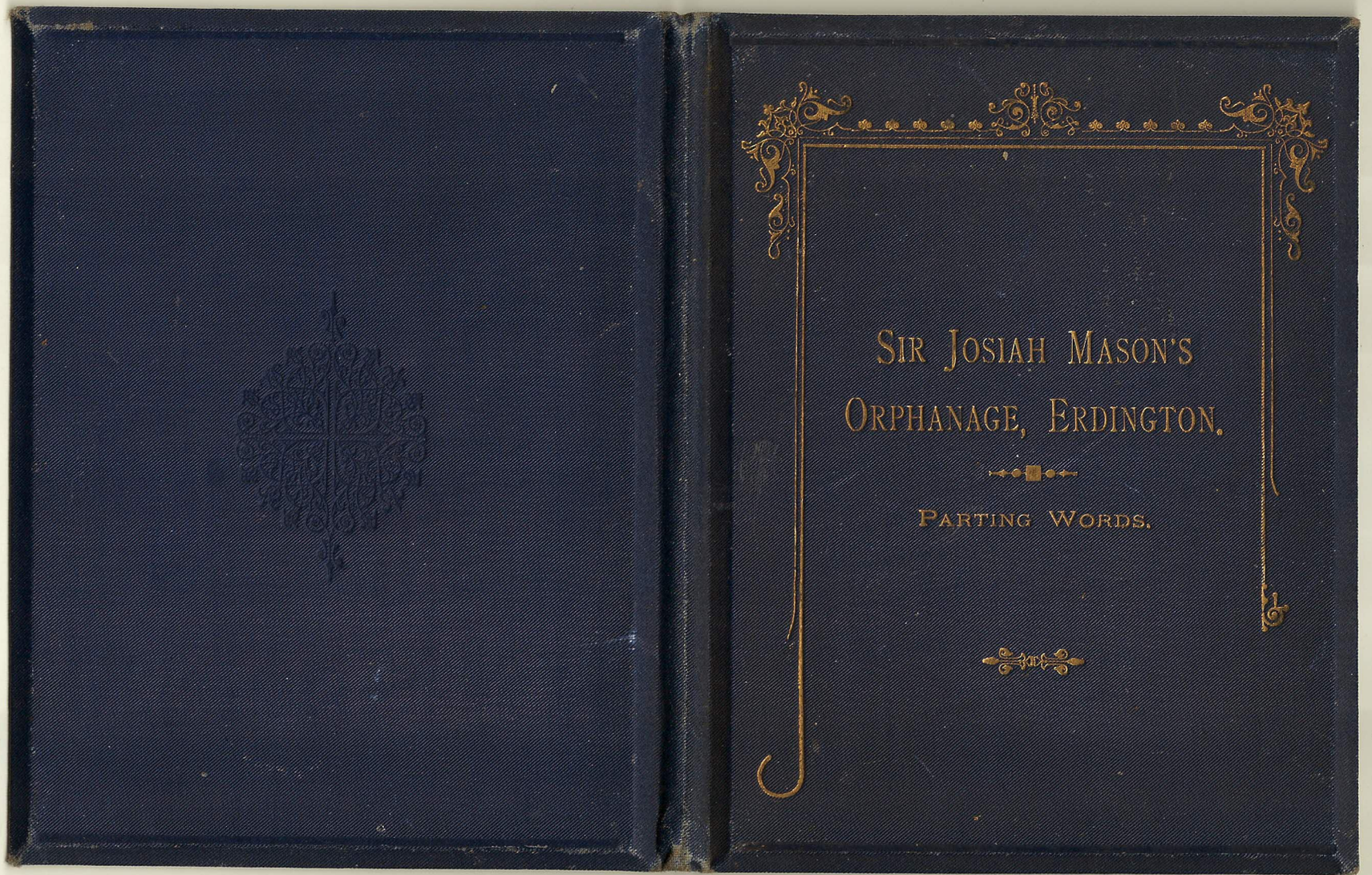
SIR JOSIAH MASON'S
ORPHANAGE, ERDINGTON.
PARTING WORDS.