

SAMUEL.

WHAT boy or girl has not seen a picture of little Samuel on his knees with clasped hands engaged in prayer? His mother got him from God, in answer to prayer, and he himself was a praying child. She promised to God, if He would give her a boy, that she would give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and that no razor should come upon his head. This last thing was part of what was the law of the Nazarite, as I told you in the case of Samson; and it is generally allowed that she meant to make him a Nazarite altogether. That would make him an abstainer from wine and strong drink, from his birth.

When he was old enough to be left at the tabernacle, to which the people came to worship God, she took him there, and left him with Eli the high-priest, to serve about the tabernacle. She told Eli that this was the child she had prayed for, and that as the Lord had granted her petition, so, therefore, said she, "I have lent him to the Lord. As long as he liveth he shall be lent to the Lord." She gave him to God's service, and he would be a Nazarite consecrated to Him during his whole life.

As Samuel stayed there, the Lord greatly honoured him, even when he was a child. He was sent with a terrible message to Eli about his sons, who were very wicked. When Samuel's mother was praying for a child, Eli saw her lips moving and thought she was drunk, and said to her, "How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee." Eli must have seen women drunk else he would not have thought that Hannah was so, or spoken to her as he did. I fear his own sons helped this. The abounding of intemperance, even when the people were at the tabernacle, would no doubt have its influence on Samuel's mother in making her boy a Nazarite, so that he might be free from the temptations that would be around him, and be enabled to serve the Lord more fully.

And similar reasons cause mothers now to make their children abstainers. They see so much that would tempt them, and so many falling into intemperance, and so many of those who have fallen into it doing what they can to lead others astray, that they feel the only safe way for their children is never to begin to use intoxicating drink. And most of the mothers who do this are mothers who consecrate their children to the Lord. They may not give them to be ministers or missionaries, but they give them to the Lord, to serve Him all the days of their lives; and it is because they desire their children to do so that they make them abstainers from their birth, and train them so that they shall continue abstainers all their life. Drink has led many young persons astray, and is still doing so, turning them from God and from what is good; while abstinence has been blessed in keeping from bad company and in helping to serve God.

Samuel proved all his life worthy of this consecration. He carried out his mother's wish. She lent him to the Lord all the days of his life, and he served Him to the very end. Read his history, and you will see much to admire. As you read it, remember that it is not enough that your mothers have given you to the Lord, or trained you to be abstainers; you must give yourselves to Him and serve Him, and keep from all that would lead you away from a full, free, hearty life-service of God, doing His will, and striving to do good to others, and to lead them to serve Him too.

MISS TROUBLESOME.

JANE WILSON was one of the most noisy troublesome girls I ever met with in my life. Where Jane was there could be no quiet. I was paying a visit at her aunt's