



MONUMENT ERECTED ON THE SITE OF BETHEL CHURCH.

*OLD BETHEL CHURCH.

BY MRS. A. HILDRETH.

Old Bethel Church—as pilgrims to a shrine
Missouri's children gather here to-day,
Where shaded by the poplar and the pine
Its founders dreamless lie at rest for aye.
One hundred years ago its altar fires
Were lit by those who struggled to be free,
And voices which now ring in angel choirs
Proclaimed the dawn of Christian liberty.
The site remains although the walls are gone;
Time spares few landmarks in his onward march,
A prayer or two and we must hasten on,
But leave this tablet here 'neath heaven's arch,
We linger still, although the sound of praise
Has ceased. The sun through frosted leaves wind-blown,
Is reaching backward, and he softly lays
A golden touch upon the cold gray stone.

*In Central Baptist, November 8, 1906.