

The Hole in the Wall.

of "The many distinguished persons who at the present day frequent the Senate restaurant during the sessions of Congress, few if any have any knowledge of the its origin, or of the primitive manner in which Senators appeased their appetites in the early days. The idea of a lunch room ^{in the Capitol} originated with Sergeant-at-Arms Beal. It was located in what was known in those days as the Hole in the Wall, a circular room situated near the Old Senate Post Office, ^{thro which ~~admission~~ ^{access} was had to it} It was perfectly circular in form and but ten feet across. But into this small space I have seen crowded many times the greatest Statesmen of the Country. If those old walls could speak what wonderful stories they could tell of scenes that have transpired there. It was no uncommon thing to see congregated there Clay, Webster, Calhoun, Benton, Cass, Preston, Phelps, Douglas, Wright, Slidell, Mason, & others. What momentous questions have been discussed & what results have come from plans laid ^{to this country} in that small room, ^{I have heard ~~them~~ ^{discussing} & words spoken there which I dare not reveal even at this late day.} When the year & days were called

in the Senate I knew just where to go to find the missing Senators; in fact they used to tell me I would find them there when wanted. After it ceased to be used as a lunch room I had much more difficulty in finding the Senators for they were scattered in other various committee rooms where they kept such refreshments as they desired. At the present time the Senators are much more careful what they keep in their rooms than they were in former days, & what they do have in the form of beverages are kept carefully under lock & key, & they are more particular as to who has access to them. In the Hole in the