

6th March, 1971

Mr. C. T. Crocker,  
86 View Street,  
Fitchburg,  
Massachusetts 01420,  
U.S.A.

Dear Tom Crocker:

How thoughtful of you to send me the copy of The New-England Galaxy, containing the article by Samuel Flagg Bemis. It is a wonderful description and all written so simply and with a sort of naive charm. I take it this is part of his memoirs. Reading it over, I recall some of the same scenes, for instance, seeing the life boat spill all of the occupants out when the forward pulleys jammed. His description of what the ship did took me by surprise but he must be accurate for he could see the ship from a distance as he rode his little raft. I had always supposed that the stern settled, bringing the amputated bow up into the air. I had always thought that was one of the reasons it floated, that and the fact that its bulkheads between sections of the ship held. That just shows what tricks memory can play.

I thought, when I did manage to crawl back off the wreckage in the bow, that the ship's deck sloped aft. I would be interested to know what your memory is. We were very lucky. My knee, I may say, is giving me trouble today. I have a haemorrhage in it every now and then, just to remind me how lucky I really was. Actually, I received an indemnity from the German government through the American government. That came to me twelve years after the blowing up of the Sussex and we have named our house



at Magog Meadows, on the banks of Lake Memphremagog, "Sussex House." If you and your wife could come to see us sometime, we would be delighted. Our address is Austin, Province of Quebec, and our farm, which is called "Magog Meadows," is halfway between Austin and Knowlton's Landing. The telephone number is Area Code 514, 292-5256 and we are there all summer long.

I suppose Samuel Flagg Bemis is a cousin of the Mrs. Bemis who was the sister of Alan Gregg. She was a wonderful woman, as I know because of the fact that I have written the life of Alan Gregg. Doing that has made me familiar with the Harvard of your generation.

Again many thanks,

Yours sincerely,

WP/mb