

Homer Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 88  
" " "

Dear friend Albion,

I am very much  
ashamed that your kind  
letter of last summer has  
remained unanswered so  
long, but I have done my  
little more than I had  
been compelled to. I am  
still in my place, am  
in hopes to sell as I  
cannot take the care of  
it that should be.

I have often wished I  
was where I could have  
a talk with you and

ask your advice. I feel very  
much alone. all the people  
here are good to me. but  
they cannot fill my dear  
Husbands place.

I am going to tell you  
something. Hoping you will  
not blame me. At the time  
Will was killed there were  
two others. the cause of the  
accident was the explosion  
of a defective Boiler that  
had been condemned more  
than six months before.  
and more than that  
the man in charge was  
not an experienced Engineer  
he employed him because  
he would work cheap. it  
is a clear case of negligence.  
three of us have sued the

Company. my suit is coming  
on two weeks from tomorrow  
the 23rd of Jan. I feel quite  
nervous over it. although I take  
no risks if I gain nothing  
I lose nothing. I have a  
smart Lawyer all say his  
name is Franklin Pierce  
of Boston. I very much  
wish you could be here  
at that time do not  
expect you can. I have  
no brother here and I  
feel very much alone.  
Should it be so you can  
come I will defray all  
expenses. I hardly know how  
I have lived through all  
but ~~is~~ God is good. I feel  
he has been my helper.  
I hope you will not

Blame me. remember  
me in much kindness  
to your wife and also  
your daughter if she is  
at home. please let me  
hear from you before  
long if convenient. hoping  
you and yours are well  
I am your old friend  
Ellen

Ellen McBallard.

Homer.