

U.S. Sails Sept 27, 1862

Sir

We have proposed so far with the view
of the Pres^t Adams - that I shall be unable to
keep the present number of hands at work to advan-
tage, longer than this week - unless there should
be some other object to engage them - As it is probable
in short time there will be full employment for them
I shall regret if it is necessary to discharge them, &
hope you will be able to obviate it - for they are
a set of the best Workmen I have ever seen, &
it would be very difficult to replace them. I have
proposed that they should keep Holiday for a week
or two, if it meets your approbation - and not
consider themselves as discharged - in which time it
is likely their services will be again required - to
which they willingly consent - As most of their
friends are distant from the City of Washington
it will give them an opportunity of seeing them,
I should be glad Sir, if there is a prospect of soon
being able to employ them, that such an ar-
rangement could be made - as it is very difficult
to procure good hands - and such as there are.