

hope will be followed and our conduct in all pro-
bable cases marked out with as much pre-
cision as possible.

We would wish in the first place
to know what facts or appearances are to
be evidence of a vessel's being designed for hostile-
ty so as to come within the Predicament
in which we have been desired to interfere -

If nothing less will serve than full proof
of her being commissioned for fighting, how
are we to procure this proof - when a ship
carries guns avowedly for the defence of
herself and cargo, are we to conclude from
her being loaded and from the assertions of
her owners that she will certainly abstain
from offensive measures - But even if there
should be no guns mounted, is it proper that
vessels belonging to any of the powers at war
should in any manner carry out of this country
Cannon, or arms of any kind which they did
not bring here in.

We beg Sir, that you will communi-
cate the difficulties we have stated, to the
President