

importunity had been exhausted, and the circumstances did not warrant it in having recourse to any other weapons."

Mr. Sam C. Reid, Jr., who was then prosecuting this claim in behalf of his father, and the owners, officers, and crew of the brig, procured its revival in 1845, under Mr. Polk's administration.

It may be interesting to the reader to give the following coincidence in relation to this claim. During the war with Mexico Mr. Reid was attached to Captain Ben McCulloch's scouting company of the celebrated Jack Hays' regiment of Texas Rangers. In August, 1846, the army of General Taylor was on its march from Comargo to Monterey. Mr. Reid had been sent with a despatch from the front to General Taylor, and after some friendly conversation, in taking his leave, Mr. Reid remarked, "Well, General, we may never meet again, but I think I know the popular pulse of our people well enough to predict that, if you win the battle of Monterey, you will become President of the United States!" The General laughed, and expressing his incredulity, said, as Mr. Reid was mounting his horse, "Reid, when I get to be President your father shall have his claim against Portugal." "Good," replied Reid, "I'll hold you to it."

General Taylor became President, and kept his word. He instructed Mr. John M. Clayton, Secretary of State in 1849, to renew this claim against Portugal. That government, backed up by England, refused to pay the claim, but urged that it be submitted to a third power for arbitration. Mr. Clayton declined to arbitrate so just a claim, and pledged the national honor never to consent to submit to so humiliating a proposition.

Mr. Jas. B. Clay, our minister at Lisbon, son of Henry Clay, was then instructed to make a peremptory demand on Portugal, and our Mediterranean squadron proceeded, in July, 1850, up the river Tagus to Lisbon to receive the *ultimatum*.