

negroes, at their instigation."* The fact that these atrocities were committed, the commander of the British fleet, admiral Warren, and the commander of the British troops, sir Sidney Beckwith, admitted without hesitation,† but they resorted, as on other occasions, to the unavailing pretext of a justifiable retaliation. It was said, by the British general, "that the excesses at Hampton were, occasioned by an occurrence, at the recent attempt upon Craney Island, when the British troops in a barge, sunk by the American guns, clung to the wreck of the boat; but several Americans waded off from the Island, fired upon and shot these men." The truth of the assertion was denied; the act, if it had been perpetrated by the American troops, was promptly disavowed by their commander; and a board of officers appointed to investigate the facts, after stating the evidence, reported "an unbiased opinion, that the charge against the American troops was unsupported; and that the character of the American soldiery for humanity and magnanimity, had not been committed, but on the contrary confirmed."‡ The result of the enquiry was communicated to the British general; reparation was demanded; but it was soon perceived that whatever might personally be the liberal dispositions of that officer, no adequate reparation could

*See the letters from general Taylor to admiral Warren, dated the 29th of June, 1813, to gen. sir Sidney Beckwith, dated the 4th and 5th of July, 1813; to the secretary of war, dated the 2d of July, 1813; and to captain Myers, of the last date.

See, also, the letter from major Crutchfield to governor Barbour, dated the 20th of June, 1813; the letters from capt. Cooper to lieutenant governor Mallory, dated in July, 1813; the report of Messrs. Griffin and Lively, to major Crutchfield, dated the 4th of July, 1813; and col. Parker's publication in the Enquirer.

†See admiral Warren's letter to gen. Taylor, dated the 29th of June, 1813; sir Sidney Beckwith's letter to gen. Taylor, dated the same day; and the report of captain Meyers to gen. Taylor, of July, 2d 1813.

‡See the report of the proceedings of the board of officers, appointed by the general order, of the 1st of July, 1813.