

We have but small space or time for a very few words, in reply to an editorial article in yesterday's Republican, on the much agitated subject of the loss of the bill for continuing the Fortifications in this harbor, &c. The writer complains of the length of time that bill was retained by the Committee of Finance, before it was reported to the Senate, and finally acted on in that body. We have already explained the cause of this detention, and shewn that it was kept back by Mr. Webster, in order to obtain from the Secretary at War, and the Military Committees of the Senate and the House, all the information they could furnish his committee as to the new works, which the Government itself thought necessary at this particular crisis. When this information had been obtained, the bill was immediately reported back by Mr. Webster, and acted on by the Senate as soon as they received it. The writer in the Republican states that the bill was not returned to the House until *Thursday or Friday* preceding the last day of the session. This the writer of that article *knows* to be *false*. The bill was reported and acted on in the Senate Monday, Feb. 23d, and returned to the House, Tuesday, Feb. 24—one *whole week* before the House condescended to notice it. This can be proved by a reference to the journals of both Houses of Congress, by any one who will take the trouble to inspect them. He pretends also, that the House was prevented from acting on the report of their own committee of conference, by want of time, &c.—12 o'clock having arrived and put an end to their existence. The folly of all this subterfuge is so amply exposed in other parts of our paper, as to need no reply in addition to those statements. As to the malicious motives supposed to actuate Messrs. KNIGHT and ROBBINS in their votes on this subject, and their pretended indifference to the interests of Newport, we leave the uniform conduct of those gentlemen to speak for itself in the mind of every candid and well disposed citizen.