—to pursue it with some credit to myself in any country. It has never been my intention to settle here nor in Europe & I have in consequence neglected to seek for public patronage. Was there any certainty of our war with England soon ceasing I might be induced to wait, & vegetate here (as it were) a few months longer, in order to avoid the risk I must now undergo of being delayed if not detained, on my way home, & of loosing my little effects; but this not being the case, I feel as I do & so do others do. The great difficulty & obstacle with me is the want of a small sum of money. I have however some prospect of procuring a passage on credit, and that is to be permitted to make the payment in the U States, I shall notwithstanding need as much as a thousand francs to make some necessary little purchases & to carry me to the Port of embarkation, but how to amass this much money is, I might say, Hoc opus, hic labor est. I have no lucrative work in hand nor in expectation. I have a picture (a sleeping Ariadne in a landskape background) now in the public exhibition, it has given the greatest pleasure to all who saw it at my Study, but the unfavourable manner in which it is seen at the exhibition (it is placed much too high & in a dim light) leaves me no hope of finding a lover for it, and the times are not favourable for sales of this nature, & it is generally through the medium & interest of the Directeur general Denon that the artists meet encouragement here — and it is necessary to pay him some court, to propose ses bonnes graces which I have somewhat neglected. An exhibition of this picture for a month, in one of our cities would I am confident procure me the money I now require, judging from that they sum a Swedish painter drew from the exhibition of a figure of Danae, some years ago in Philad[a] — which picture I had seen here in Paris previous to the author taking it to Philad[a] — Wertmuller was his name, I have lately heard that he is dead & that the picture had been sold, but for how much I did not hear.

There are but few wealthy americans here, & those who are possessed of the means, are either indifferent, or very luke warm admirers in works of the fine arts, & besides would perhaps scruple to buy a picture of a naked woman, at even two per cent. I would willingly sell it on condition (as the celebrated [illegible] have disposed of his first work of note, (which was some 15 or 18 years ago) which is, to give it for a third or even a fourth of the sum I value it at, reserving the privilege of purchasing it back for the money that had been paid for it & the interest but this I could only expect from a person who should be willing to oblige me, I asked Mr Preble here if he thought Mr Parker would be willing to agree to such a proposal, but his answer was such, as confirmed me in the opinion I previously had entertained, that I had nothing to hope for from that quarter indeed I don't know that there is any one here, who I could apply to, & I would be sorry to leave the picture behind me on account of the project I have of exhibiting it with that of Marius & on my arrival in the U States, both to the advantage of my reputation and pecuniary circumstances, were it not for this consideration, I would be willing to dispose of it here for one half or even a quarter of the sum I value it at, in order to be possessed of the pecuniary means to return home.

In my former letter to you I believe I mentioned another picture which I have in America, sent together with that of Marius to John R. Murray N York. This picture is a copy of one by Correge here in the Louvre gallery, it represents Antiope asleep