- dated last March, & rec^d some time last summer, this brought me the almost incredible news, that my pictures of C. Marius and Antiope had not yet come to hand, but that Mr. Murray had however apprised him that they had arrived, & he believed them in the possession of Mr. Peale of Philad^a. this news was so astonishing & inconceivable, that I did not know at first what to think: but upon reflection & consideration, a suspicion rose in my mind that Mr. Murray had probably permitted Mr. Peale to carry the [illegible] and the same Vessel, & I had been so confidential to Mr. P. as to request him in case they made the port of Philad^a to see the box landed and forwarded to N York following its direction, this was only asking a return of friendly services from Mr P. The Vessel we know arrived at the port of N York. Mr. Peale from some private design & interested motive may have asked Mr. Murray the liberty to carry the picture to Philad^a. expecting perhaps some laudable motive such as exhibiting them for the advantage of my Name &c &c. & Mr M. perhaps too indifferent to my interest, to object to the proposal, acquiesced to the demand, knowing at the same time my intention was to exhibit them for my own profit in the U States, as most of my letters have made known to him. If it prove to be the case that Mr Peale has exhibited them in Philad^a then my project of deriving some thing from an exhibition there is destroyed. I need ask your pardon for troubling you with so long a history of my private concerns, tho' at the same time it may be proper that you should know something about [illegible] these pictures particularly that of Antiope, & my engagement respecting it with Mr Murray - before I make you any overture.

I have in a former letter to Mr Strong requested him in case