Mr Murray should not be desirous to have (Antiope) to propose it to you on the same condition. Mr Murray may possibly object to its nudities, if it be true that there is a religious mania now prevailing in N. York & that Mr M. is under its influence. But I have no apprehension of your being possessed of any mania that would forbid your looking on a picture especially one of female beauty. Therefore if Mr M. is not disposed to have this picture & you are willing to take it on [illegible]

I must beg you to forget for this time yet that I owe you a sum of money, for I am really not in circumstances just now to pay debts, I trust however the time is not far distant when I shall be in a situation to do it, but it is necessary that I should first be established in the U States, at present I am concerned and occupied for the means to get there. The 150 dolls. which Mr Murray has paid on this picture I have requested Mr Strong to refund him out of the sum total of 400 $ the price of the picture and the remainder (250 $) he is desired to remit me immediately.

I would ask another favour of you in case you accept my proposal, which is to permit the picture to remain in the hands of Mr Strong until I return but should this be retarded beyond next summer by any accident or cause whatever, you will be at liberty to have it, or should the picture be still unstretched (not on a frame) & rooled up, it may as well be transmitted to you at Boston as not as it is not in such a state liable to injury, whereas when once stretched on its frame it is both inconvenient to move about, and much exposed to being injured, and another wish is that it should not be seen by all the world, before I have exhibited it publicly with my other works

these conditions, I hope, may not appear unreasonable to you, I shall make my friend Mr Strong acquainted with them, and request him to let you know whether Mr Murray wishes to keep the picture or not, & to act accordingly.

Another condition (which I forgot to mention) made or proposed to Mr M. was that if the Picture should not please him altogether that on my return to the U. States I would willingly take it back from him & refund him the money he paid for it so soon as my circumstances permitted me, for I would not part with such a Study, from such a Master, if I was in better circumstances. But after all, before my proposal can be accepted by you it is necessary that my friend Strong should have come to decidedly a discovery & possession of the picture, which I trust he has before now, following his intention, as well as my repeated solicitations.

I met some days ago Mr Beale of your city, at an exhibition of pictures for sale here, he had purchased he told me a few small pictures. On enquiry about my acquaintances at Boston he told me he had meet you at a sale there & very well, & further that he had understood you had drawn a prize in a Lottery of a considerable sum, which I hope is true, fortune only makes me jealous of her favours, when she heapes them on cramp'd miserly minded folks. I close this long letter with the most earnest wish of being on the same soil with you before another six months have elapsed & with wishing you health & happiness.

I remain Dear Sir
your much obliged humb. servt
Jno Vanderlyn

George Gibbs Esqr