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CRY OF THE WILD RAM

A Pageant Drama

by

FRANK O. BRINK

B. A. Maryville College, Maryville, Tennessee 1941

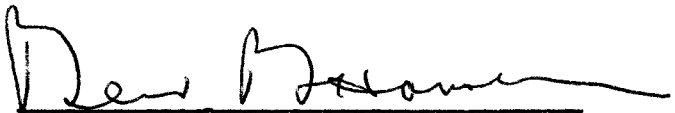
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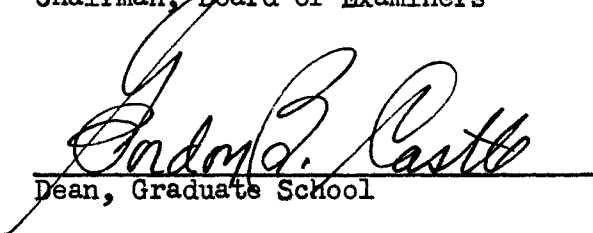
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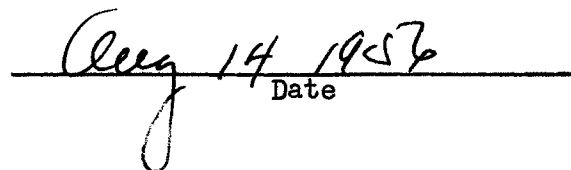
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1956

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PREFACE

Baranovⁿ...a rough, rugged hospitable hard-drinking old Russian somewhat of a soldier, somewhat of a trader; above all a boon companion of the old roistering school, with a strong cross of the bear.ⁿ

Washington Irving, ASTORIA

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INTRODUCTION

Springing up all over America today are regional pageant-dramas with roots set in the history of the areas where they are produced.

These pageants of local history, staged, as they usually are, out of doors, suggest, better than would be possible on a proscenium stage the freedom of movement and thought inherent in the history itself. Pageant-dramas are called by John Gassner "pageant, because there is so much spectacle in them and drama, because the spectacles are a part of the dramatic development and do not preempt the action..."¹

Most of the pageant-dramas which are an outgrowth of the work of Paul Green of the University of North Carolina, and Bert Hansen of Montana State University,² are episodic in construction. They do not always deal with one phase or period of history or glorify one character. They may cover several periods of history contributing to the growth and significance of a particular community or area of the United States.

The episodes of the pageant-dramas are the result of careful research into the written histories, old news accounts, stories, legends, and conversations with actual participants in the episodes of history, or with their descendents. Historical accuracy is maintained in the selection of episodes for dramatization. Scenes are chosen on the basis of their story interest and dramatic value.

¹John Gassner, "Outdoor Pageant-Drama," Theatre Arts, (July, 1954), 82.

²Henry Hewes, "Drama in the Land," Saturday Review of Literature, (April 17, 1954), 40.

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As Professor Hansen has stated, "Every community has a story," and the story is the heart of the successful pageant-drama; however, participation by as many members of the community as possible is vital to the fulfillment of the pageant-drama's purpose. That this philosophy was borne out in the Stevensville, Montana pageant-drama³ was attested to by Baker Brownell who observed that "nearly all participated in one way or another in the show."

Brownell concluded that "the creative act is the participative act," and the "community dramas in Montana made participation real."⁴

In addition to the community participation demanded of pageant-dramas, there is an uncommon participation on the part of the audience. They evaluate and in a sense sit in judgment of their own history. This was demonstrated at the production of "Tall Tales of Old Fort Benton."⁵ The audience reacted as if they had a sense of belonging to and consequent responsibility for what was happening there, rather than that they were mere spectators of a dramatic illusion. One old gentleman, in reaction to the scene of the Great Northern Railroad by-passing Fort Benton, was heard to say, "That's just the way it happened!" His comment resulted in further discussion, criticism, and speculation concerning this event with another member of the audience.

³"A Tale of the Bitterroot" by Bert Hansen was produced at Stevensville, Montana in July, 1947.

⁴Baker Brownell, The Human Community, (New York: Harper Brothers, 1949), p. 71.

⁵"Tall Tales of Old Fort Benton" by Bert Hansen was produced at Fort Benton, Montana in July 1954.

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The story of the human struggle to build the educational, cultural, social, and historical institutions which we have inherited and by which we direct our lives is the story of American democracy. If America is going to survive, it is the opinion of the writer that she must tell her story.

The dramatic form, according to Professor Hansen, is the clearest method of telling it. By this form, audience and cast become mutual participators in their own unfolding story, and unlike the didactic method, wherein the speaker makes the inferences, the performers and the audience are left to make their own inferences. Moreover, communication is achieved on many different levels of appreciation.⁶ For these reasons, it seems logical that America's story should be told through historical pageant-dramas, and as Allen and Martha Rankin say, "produced out under the stars, in theatres whose backdrops are the mountains, the plains or the sea..." for in this way the "playgoers can contemplate how groundless have been the fears of pessimists; how meaningful the deaths of those struggling for great causes; how futile any attempt to blight the spirit of an abundant land."⁷

When drama such as this is revealed to us in our own communities, we are able to understand and evaluate the "historical backgrounds upon which the community was organized, built, and on which it survives as a unit in American democracy."⁸ Democracy may be said to exist wherever people in a community can be brought together in a common enterprise resulting in increased communication, questioning of community values, institutions, and leadership; and the searching into community motives and directions. This is what happens

⁶Bert Hansen, "Sociodrama in Community Integration," Sociology and Social Research, 32 (September-October, 1947), 541-42.

⁷Allen and Martha Rankin, "How the Lost Colony was Found," Theatre Arts, (July, 1956), 95.

⁸Bert Hansen, a quotation attributed to Mr. Hansen in the preface of a thesis by Carroll O'Connor "A Valley fo Caesar" (unpublished Master's thesis, Montana State University, Missoula, Montana, 1956), preface.

wherever pageant-drama are produced. Communication barriers are broken down, and there is a feeling of increased civic responsibility and neighborliness resulting in greater community integration.

One of the performers in the Fort Benton pageant-drama remarked that he had been in town six years and had never participated in any of the community activities; however, since he had become involved in the production he intended to take a greater interest in what was happening in Fort Benton.⁹

Another benefit of the pageant-drama according to Professor Hansen, is its integrating effect upon people of different races and religions. Racial and religious prejudices are lessened, he says, because as they work together they begin to feel that their common project is more important than their prejudices. They begin to accept each other for what they are and look upon their differences with interest and tolerance.

In reference to Professor Hansen's presentation of "A Tale of the Shining Mountains," Dr. George A. Selke marveled at the extent to which the whites and Indians were brought into harmony through the pageant-drama.¹⁰

The participation experienced by both performers and audience demonstrates the therapeutic value of community pageant-drama.

These values continue long after the performance is over, influencing the attitudes that preserve our democratic traditions.

The pageant-drama as written for this thesis has already effected an integrating influence and may be expected to more fully realize this principle when it is produced.

⁹Attitude expressed by Mr. E. J. Serbin at performance of "Tall Tales of Old Fort Benton," Fort Benton, Montana, July, 1954.

¹⁰Opinion expressed by Dr. George A. Selke, former Chancellor of the Montana State University system Helena, Montana, July 9, 1947.

(v)

This integrating effect was demonstrated, for example, in the planning for the production of the pageant-drama. 1. Its creation was given impetus and financial support by a community service organization, The Anchorage Woman's Club. 2. Several civic organizations and individuals contributed to the stockpile of research material and suggestions useful in the writing. 3. A community-wide service committee was organized by the Woman's Club to make plans for its production during the summer of 1957. 4. This committee has succeeded in getting the city's cultural and recreational development corporation, Greater Anchorage Incorporated, interested in sponsoring its production.

When it is produced, I believe it will continue the integrating process, for it will bring together artists, performers, musicians, historians, educators, businessmen, promoters, and laborers, and will combine the cultures of Native Alaska, Russia and America on a common ground of understanding.

There is an essential difference between this thesis pageant-drama and the pageant-dramas of Professor Hansen. It is a difference in the history treated. In the pageant-dramas of Montana history, there is a closer blood relationship between the white settlers of today and the people who pioneered the country, and I believe there is a carryover of their spirit and attitudes. Whereas in Alaska, the Russian Imperial colony has given way to an American democratic civilization motivated by principles completely counter to the autocracy of the Tzarist Russia.

The effect of this difference limits the degree of philosophic, political, educational, and cultural carryover from the Russian era to the present.

*The pageant-drama as presented in the thesis is the first of a planned series based upon the most important periods of Alaskan history.

The second pageant-drama will deal with the lawless period following the purchase of Russia by the United States, a period that brought out the noblest of human virtues in those people who fought to maintain civilization and sanity in the face of the elements that tended to destroy it.

The third will deal with the American Gold Rush period and the forces that shaped the traditional character of the Sourdough.

The fourth will treat contemporary history, which in contrast with the feverish story of exploitation by the Russians and early Americans, will tell a new and sane story, but nonetheless a dramatic story, of the struggle of American colonial farmers in seeking a new land in which to fulfill themselves as individuals and the country as a good place in which to live.

In the writing, the pageant-drama follows the more important episodes in the life of the most significant figure of the Russian-American colonial history, Alexander Baranov.¹¹

The scenes are based upon the episodes which I believe have the greatest story and dramatic value and best reveal the character of Baranov through his thoughts, his actions, and his decisions.

I chose Baranov around whom to build my play and reveal some of the historical events of the time, because it is by belief that he fulfills the requirements of a dramatic as well as a historical character.

Baranov was a man of many traits and conflicts. He had courage and patience. He was a man of decision, a man of violence and quick sometimes brutal justice. On occasion he was stubborn and cruel. He had an unshakeable loyalty to his friends, to his country, and to his employer. He was an excellent business manager. He was shrewd. He was a gambler with both man and nature. He had a deep sense of humility and devotion to duty and conducted his life with an honesty unshared by his employer and many of his contemporaries.

¹¹Hubert Howe Bancroft, History of Alaska, (San Francisco: The History Company, 1886), p. 317.

He was a trader, a conqueror and a colonist.

Though his personal destiny was linked with the destiny of Russia he was never enough of a philosopher to realize it. This fair haired man of diminutive stature established the first permanent colony in Alaska, made the first extensive use of Alaska's natural resources, established the first industry, established the first Christian Church and indirectly influenced Alaska's culture.

During his life time he gained international fame and respect and was held in awe by every native inhabitant from Northern Alaska to California. He was a man who in the latter years of his life pushed the Russian Empire from the Pribilof Islands to California and who would have extended it to the Sandwich Islands if his strength and health had allowed.

If any of his successors had possessed the interest, the devotion, and the determination, of Baranov, it is very likely that Alaska would still be in the hands of Russia.

In choosing a name for the pageant-drama, "Cry of the Wild Ram" suggested itself, for the root word Baran, according to Hector Chevigny,¹² means wild ram. The cry is meant to symbolize the pain that climaxed his struggle to build a colony in Alaska.

¹²Hector Chevigny, Lord of Alaska, (Portland: Metropolitan Press, 1942), p. 30.

CRY OF THE WILD RAM

A Pageant Drama - in Five Acts

by

Frank Brink

Scene Synopsis

ACT I

Scene Three Saints Bay

- 1 -----seashore, March, 1791
 2-----cabin, one week later
 3 -----cabin, June, 1791

ACT II

St Paul Village and Resurrection Bay

- 1 -----the village square, June, 1792
 2 -----the next morning
 3 -----midnight the same day
 4 -----Resurrection Bay shipyard, Spring, 1793
 5 -----" " " June, 1794
 6 -----" " " August, 1794

ACT III

St Paul Village

- 1 -----village square, July 1802
 2 -----three hours later
 3 -----cabin of ship in harbor, the same day

ACT IV

Sitka

- 1 -----the forest, October, 1804
 2 -----log shack, August, 1805

ACT V

Sitka

- 1 -----Baranov Castle, June, 1812
 2 -----" " , November, 1818
 3 -----" " , the next afternoon
 4 -----" " , December, 1818

CHARACTER LIST

Galak	old hunter
Paul	hunter and craftsman
Makary	hunter and craftsman
Delarov	commander of colony before Baranov
Izmailov	old navigator
Ignatti	son of Botcharov
Pyotr	son of Izmailov
Karnak	clerk
Aghanak	old Aleut woman
Botcharov	navigator
Kuskov	young clerk and secretary to Baranov
Baranov	manager of Russian American colony
Pahnyak	Aleut Chief
Purtov	hunter and laborer
Molakar	hunter and craftsman
Afanassi	Priest
Nectar	Priest
Makar	Priest
Herman	Priest
Shields	English navigator
Talin	young naval midshipman
Morotin	hunter and craftsman
Rodionov	ship's clerk
Raskashikov	Indian Chief
Ayam	Indian Interpreter
Konovalov	trader-pirate
Anna	Indian princess
Antipatr	son of Baranov
Banner	councilor (a minor civil rank)
Richard	a malay boy, servant of Baranov
Hubbel	captain of Yankee ship "Enterprise"
O'Cain	first mate of the "Enterprise"
Patrick	Irish cabin boy of the "Enterprise"
Old Indian	peace negotiator
Rezanov	plenipotentiary of the Tzar
Kvostov	naval lieutenant
Khlebnikhov	secretary and bookkeeper for Baranov
Gertrude	German governess
Irina	daughter of Baranov
Naplovkov	Castle guard
Lezchinski	laborer
Hagemeister	naval captain
Yanovsky	naval lieutenant
Lozarev	naval captain

ACT I

Scene 1

(a morning in the middle of March 1791)

(D.R. IS THE CONTOUR OF A MOUNTAIN SLOPING TOWARD CENTER STAGE. ABOVE THE MOUNTAIN IS A TWO MASTED SLOOP IN A CRADLE. ITS BOW IS PARTIALLY HIDDEN BY THE MOUNTAIN. ABOVE THE SLOOP AND BACK OF THE ENTIRE PLAYING AREA IS A BACKDROP SCENE OF THREE SAINTS BAY WITH MOUNTAINS IN THE BACKGROUND. BELOW THE BACKDROP AND SLOOP IS A GROUND ROW OF ROLLING EARTH COVERED WITH BROWN GRASS. D.L. IS THE COLONIAL MANAGER'S LOG HOUSE WITH A DOOR FACING D.S.)

ABOVE THE HOUSE ARE THREE SMALL NATIVE LOG CABINS OR BARABARAS PAINTED ON THE BACKDROP. ELSEWHERE IN THE SCENE ARE DRYING RACKS FOR SALMON, BIDARKAS, POLES, SPEARS, ETC.

AS THE SCENE OPENS, WE FIND RUSSIAN HUNTERS AND LABORERS CARRYING BUNDLES OF FURS, LOGS, TOOLS, ETC. NATIVE WOMEN ARE BUSY SEWING, CARRYING WOOD, ETC. CHILDREN ARE PLAYING. THE HUNTERS ARE SINGING A RUSSIAN SONG. TWO MEN ARE WORKING ON THE SHIP. ONE IS ON THE DECK. THE OTHER IS ON A LADDER CAULKING THE HULL. ANOTHER LADDER LEANS AGAINST THE STERN.)

Galak

(ON THE DECK, POURS THE LAST DROP OF TAR FROM HIS BUCKET, GETS UP FROM HIS KNEES, CROSSES TO THE D.S. SIDE OF THE SHIP, LOOKS DOWN AT THE WHARF, THEN SURVEYS THE LANDSCAPE AND CALLS)

Ignatti! (HE LOOKS AGAIN, SHADING HIS EYES) Ignatti Botcharov!
(TO PAUL) Now where did that rascal go? I tell him to get another bucket of tar, and he disappears.

Paul (ON THE LADDER) He's a child, and he is lazy like the others.
There's too much Aleut in him.

Galak He'll never be a sailor like his father! (SEES A BOY RUNNING BY,
CALLS TO HIM) Hey! Boy! What's your name?

Boy (STOPS, LOOKS UP) Izmailov! Pyotr Izmailov!

Galak Is that another one of Izmailov's children?

Paul Yes. Half of the children in the village are Izmailov's.

Galak (LAUGHS) For a ship captain, he spends too much time on shore.
(TO THE BOY) You see Ignatti Botcharov?

Boy (IMPATIENTLY) He over there. (POINTS LEFT) What you want?

Galak I want tar. Come. (LOWERS EMPTY BUCKET WITH HOOK) Fill my
bucket-- over there. (POINTS TO BOILING POT WITH LADLE HANGING ON
THE SIDE)

Boy You pay?

Galak (TO PAUL) That's Izmailov's boy all right! (TO THE BOY) No pay!

Boy (SHAKES HEAD AND RUNS AWAY)

Galak (SIGHS) Well, I'll have to get it myself. (PREPARES TO DESCEND
FROM THE SHIP BY THE LADDER AT THE STERN) If that ship doesn't
come with our supplies this year, we won't get a native to turn
a hand. They've been paid with promises too long.

Paul You think the ship will come?

Galak Ah -- who knows. I hope so. (ABOUT TO DESCEND LADDER WHEN HE
SEES IGNATTI) Ignatti, where did you go?

Ignatti (POINTS TOWARD HOME D.L.) Home.

Galak I need more tar! (POINTS TO EMPTY BUCKET) My bucket is empty!

Ignatti (SITS DOWN) I tired.

Galak How you going to learn to be a ship Captain like your father if you

don't work on ship?

Ignatti

Where my father?

Galak

I told you, Ignatti, he sail ship "Three Saints" to Siberia.

Ignatti

Why he go away?

Galak

He go to get big new manager for Russian people.

Ignatti

(SLOWLY GETTING UP) When my father come?

Galak

Soon Ignatti.

Ignatti

(GOING TOWARD TAR POT) When soon? Yesterday soon? Summer soon?
Winter soon? (LOOKS OUT AT SEA) Soon never come! (POINTS)
My father die out there!

Galak

Boy! You've been listening to old woman talk! Your father is
a good sailor! Captain Botcharov can sail any ship anywhere!

Ignatti

(AT THE TAR POT, CONTEMPLATES A MOMENT) When my father come?

Galak

(LAUGHS) Soon, Ignatti.

Paul

(DISGUSTED) Ah, why don't you tell him the truth! Why don't you
tell him he may never come!

Galak

(THREATENING TO THROW THE TAR BRUSH AT PAUL) Why don't you make
more noise with the hammer! (IGNATTI AND PYOTR, WHO HAS JOINED
HIM, SQUEAL WITH LAUGHTER AS THEY BOTH CARRY THE TAR BUCKET TO THE
SHIP. AT THIS POINT A HUNTER APPROACHES FROM THE MANAGER'S CABIN
D.L. AND SHOUTS TO THE MEN ON THE SHIP)

Makary

Commander Delarov says to caulk and tar the decking first--and
then start on the hull!

Paul

What does he think we've been doing!

Galak

My dear Makary, the deck is caulked and almost tarred!

Paul

Tell him the oakum is running low!

Galak

And the tar! We have only two kegs left.

Makary The Commander wants repairs to go on until the materials are gone.

Paul Then what?

Galak Then we quit--what else? (LAUGHS. THE BOYS HOOK ON THE TAR BUCKET)

Makary By that time the "Three Saints" should arrive from Siberia.

Paul Ha! That ship you'll never see!

Makary Why not? Captain Botcharov is the best navigator in the empire.

Galak (TO IGNATTI) You hear that, boy? (THE TWO BOYS CLIMB UP THE STERN LADDER TO THE DECK)

Paul Even the best navigators are broken--out there! (POINTS TOWARD SEA)

Galak You got no hope in your soul, Paul.

Paul Why do you think Commander Delarov is so anxious to get the "St. Michael" ready?

Makary So she can go to our station at Cook Inlet and gather the furs.

Paul At this time of year! This is March, not August. I'll tell you why. It's because he knows the "Three Saints" is lost and he's getting the "St. Michael" ready to sail to Siberia.

Makary Ah, he would not sail home before the new manager comes!

Paul And what if the new manager is at the bottom of the sea?

Galak Maybe he is walking. (LAUGHS)

Makary Who would run the colony if Commander Delarov went back?

Paul Molokhov from our station at Cook Inlet!

Makary How do you know?

Paul (CAUTIOUSLY) Yesterday I overheard the Commander talking to Karnak. He said "Tell Izmailov to get the "St. Michael" ready! We're going to make a trip to Cook Inlet."

Makary Cook Inlet is not Siberia!

Paul (GETTING IRRITATED) Let me finish! He said, "I'm going to bring

Molokhov here to manage the colony.

Galak Maybe Commander Delarov plans to take a little vacation! (LAUGHS)

Paul (DISGUSTED) You make fun, Galak, but you'll see --

Galak (SEES DELAROV APPROACHING) You make more noise with the hammer.
Here comes the commander!

Delarov (CROSSES BELOW SHIP) How are the seams, Paul?

Paul Rotten on this side! I haven't checked the other side. We need
more oakum.

Delarov What about tar, Galak? Will you have enough?

Galak I fear not, Sir!

Paul What will we do when we run out of oakum and tar?

Delarov We will have to find a substitute. (WALKS OFF D.L.)

Paul (WHEN DELAROV IS OUT OF EARSHOT) Substitute? Ha! What's a sub-
stitute for oakum and tar?

Galak What's a substitute for your head! Why didn't you settle your argu-
ment while Delarov was here?

Izmailov (WANDERS IN FROM D.R. HE IS DRUNK AND SINGING A BAWDY BALLAD. A
CHILD AND AN ALEUT WOMAN ARE FOLLOWING HIM. HE STOPS WHEN HE SEES
THE MEN WORKING ON THE SHIP) (TO DELAROV) What are those men doing
to my ship!

Delarov Making it seaworthy.

Izmailov Who told them to do that?

Delarov I did!

Izmailov Why?

Delarov Because I'm the manager of this colony, and I want the ship made
ready to sail!

Izmailov You may be the manager of the colony, but I'm the master of this
ship. Why wasn't I told?

Delarov Because for two days you could not be found!

Izmailov (HE IS STOPPED FOR A MOMENT. HE TURNS AND SPEAKS IN NATIVE TONGUE
TO THE ALEUT WOMAN WHO TAKES THE CHILD AND WALKS AWAY) We don't have
oakum!

Delarov There's a little!

Izmailov It's rotten!

Delarov I inspected it. It's usable!

Izmailov Where do you want to sail?

Delarov First to Cook Inlet.

Izmailov It's too early!

Delarov For what?

Izmailov To pick up the furs.

Delarov I'm not going for furs.

Izmailov What are you going for?

Delarov I'm going to bring MoLokhov here. He will manage the colony while
I take the "St. Michael" to Siberia!

Izmailov (REALLY SURPRISED) You would go home before you are relieved?

Delarov Yes!

Izmailov Our orders are to stay here until a new manager comes!

Delarov We have waited three years! That's long enough! Fifty men finished
their five year contracts three years ago! I won't penalize them
any longer!

Izmailov Remember, Eustrate, it takes time to find a good manager. (SAR-
CASTICALLY) Shelekhov is looking for a good man!

Delarov Three years is time enough to find a good man!

Izmailov Mmmm--Maybe! But he must know how to fight! And it takes time to
find a manager who can fight!

Delarov (IRRITATED BY IZMAILOV'S INFERENCE) What do you mean by that!

Izmailov You know what I mean! You are too soft--too friendly! It takes a hard man to build a colony!

Delarov The old colonists were hard. They destroyed everything they touched! I don't believe in that!

Izmailov They got furs!

Delarov And abused the natives to get them!

Izmailov They fought for what they got! (NEEDLING) They didn't invite their enemies to eat at their table!

Delarov And who has done that?

Izmailov You! You did! When Konovalov sailed in here, you opened up your arms like a good friend. "Welcome, my brother!", you said. You have big Praznik! You have singing and dancing. You feed him! Then--then, you tell him to go to our territory at Cook Inlet! Now look at him. He has built a fort there!

Delarov That may be true, but he is not our enemy!

Izmailov He works for the Lebedev Company, doesn't he?

Delarov Yes!

Izmailov Then he is our enemy!

Delarov The Lebedev Company has every right to settle in Cook Inlet and take all the furs they can get!

Izmailov Yes, but you did not have to help them!

Delarov I merely gave Konovalov the common courtesy I would expect myself!

Izmailov (POINTING HIS FINGER ACCUSINGLY) That common courtesy will mean trouble some day. Mark my words -- One of these days you'll have trouble with Konovalov.

Delarov There are other ways to create trouble than by being friendly!

Izmailov One of these days Konovalov will decide there's only room here for one company---the Lebedev Company! What about your friendliness then!

Delarov What would you have done?

Izmailov I would have told Konovalov there was not room here for two companies. I would have forced him to go to some other place, or fight!

Delarov You would have fought him even though there were enough otter for both companies?

Izmailov Yes! For soon there will not be enough! And we will have to go some place else! Yes, I would have fought! I would fight him now, but I am too old.

Delarov And too drunk!

Izmailov (LAUGHS DERISIVELY) What is there to do but drink!

Delarov You might help get your ship ready!

Izmailov I'd rather drink!

Delarov The rest of us can't enjoy the same privilege.

Izmailov Would you like to? Here! (HE REACHES INTO HIS CLOAK AND PULLS OUT A SMALL, NATIVE CLAY BOTTLE) Try it! It will help --

Delarov (ANGRY) Put that away! You know you have no right to make vodka! And I won't have you flaunting it in front of these men!

Izmailov (KNOWING HE HAS GONE TOO FAR---PUTS BOTTLE AWAY) You may need it before you get out of here. (HE TURNS TO WALK OFF D.R., WHEN HE HEARS PYOTR CALLING FROM THE SHIP)

Pyotr Father! You are better Captain than Bötcharov?

Ignatti (SCREAMS AT IZMAILOV) My father better than you!

Pyotr (READY TO FIGHT) He is no good! He can't sail little bidarka like this! (HOLDS HIS HANDS TO INDICATE TOY BIDARKA)

Izmailov (SEES HIS SON PYOTR ON SHIP AND IS VERY ANGRY. HE STARTS TOWARD THE SHIP SHAKING HIS FIST) You! You get off that ship! (THE BOYS

SCRAMBLE OFF THE SHIP. GALAK LAUGHS AND TELLS THEM TO HURRY. THE OTHERS IN THE SCENE STOP TO WATCH, LAUGH AND COMMENT. PYOTR RUNS PAST IZMAILOV AND OFF D.R. IZMAILOV RUNS AFTER HIM) If I ever catch you on that ship again, I'll feed you to the seals!

(CURTAIN)

Scene 2

(one week later--late afternoon)

(THE SCENE IS AN INSET OF THE INTERIOR OF THE MANAGER'S CABIN. THE DOOR IS U.L.C. THERE IS A RIFLE ON A GUN RACK ABOVE THE DOOR, CLOTHING HANGING ON WOOD PEGS TO THE RIGHT OF THE DOOR ABOVE THE BUNK. THE BUNK LIES ALONG THE RIGHT WALL. ON STAGE RIGHT ABOVE THE BUNK HANGS THE PICTURE OF A SAINT. ON BOTH SIDES OF THE PICTURE ARE CANDLES IN CRUDE WOOD HOLDERS FASTENED TO THE WALL. BELOW THE BUNK IS A CHAIR. IN THE U.L. CORNER IS A STAND HOLDING A BUCKET. ABOVE THE BUCKET ON A PEG IS A LADLE. ON THE LEFT WALL IS A WINDOW. D.S. OF THE WINDOW IS A SHELF. UNDER THE WINDOW IS A SAW HORSE TABLE CONTAINING PAPERS, A COUPLE BOOKS, A BIBLE, A CANDLE, INK, A QUILL AND HOLDER. AS THE SCENE OPENS, COMMANDER DELAROV IS STANDING R. OF THE TABLE HOLDING A CHART. HE PERUSES IT FOR A MOMENT, FOLDS IT ONCE, AND LAYS IT ON THE BUNK; CROSSES TO THE TABLE, SITS, PICKS UP A QUILL, DIPS IN A BOTTLE OF INK AND BEGINS TO WRITE. AFTER A MOMENT, HE IS INTERRUPTED BY A KNOCK AT THE DOOR)

Delarov Come in! (KARNAK, ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS, ENTERS) Oh, it's you, Karnak. (MOTIONS HIM TO THE BUNK) Sit down. (KARNAK CROSSES TO THE BUNK, PICKS UP THE CHART, AND SITS) Did you find Izmailov?

Karnak Yes!

Delarov (CONTINUING TO WRITE) ----- What did he say?

Karnak He said since he was not consulted, the ships condition was not his concern.

Delarov He had better make it his concern if he wants to sail her! Is that all he had to say?

Karnak No--He swore a great deal and said if you tried to take the ship without him, he would report you to the authorities at Okhotsk!

Delarov Damn! He knows I have the power to order that ship to any duty in the service of the colony. As Captain of the ship, he has authority only at sea! What is he trying to do, taunt me?

Karnak I don't think he knows what he does these days!

Delarov I suppose not. He's in such a stupor all the time. How he can stomach that rot he drinks, I don't know. What does he make it out of?

Karnak He makes it out of cranberries, mostly, and some other ingredients his Aleut friends give to him. I've heard they even empty the stomachs of birds into it.

Delarov Only a tough, old sailor could withstand it! (FINISHES WRITING, PUTS PAPER ASIDE) So he does not intend to help with the ship?

Karnak No sir. At least not now.

Delarov When we're ready to put out to sea, he'll be around to help!

Karnak I think so, sir!

Delarov I hope the new manager can navigate! If he can't, he'll be at the mercy of the ship masters. Thank God I was brought up at sea. (A KNOCK IS HEARD AT THE DOOR)

Delarov Yes? (THE DOOR OPENS. A NATIVE WOMAN ENTERS WITH TWO SMALL KETTLES) What is it tonight, Aghanak?

Aghanak Mussels and ---

Delarov (STOPS HER) Fish!

Aghanak (SMILES AND NODS AS SHE PUTS THE KETTLES ON THE TABLE) Thank you!

Delarov Thank you! (HE LAUGHS....SHE STARTS TO GO OUT) Oh, Aghanak-- (HE RISES, CROSSES TO BUNK, PICKS UP A BOOT FROM UNDER IT, GIVES IT TO

AGHANAK) I cut it on a clam shell. Perhaps you can sew it?

Aghanak (SHE NODS, TAKES THE BOOT, AND SMILES AS SHE LEAVES)

Delarov (TAKES DOWN DISH, CUP AND UTENSILS FROM A SHELF ABOVE THE TABLE AND PREPARES TO EAT) Fish! A most delectable dish, Karnak! (SIGHS)
I have become bitter!

Karnak We all have, somewhat!

Delarov We're at the end of the world, Karnak. If only we knew how our families and friends are in Russia!

Karnak Our country, too!

Delarov Yes---for all we know she may be at war! Let me see...how long has it been---

Karnak Three years this Spring since we heard from home!

Delarov Three years--and not one sound! How can they expect us to run the colony with no help, no materials, no comforts whatsoever. (SHAKES HIS HEAD) Did you finish the inventory?

Karnak All except the small warehouse and the store. Makary and Paul will bring the reports this evening.

Delarov That will finish the job?

Karnak No sir! We still don't have complete reports on the two ships. Izmailov has the keys to the lockers--and--

Delarov (HITTING THE TABLE WITH HIS FIST) If Izmailov won't give you the keys, break the locks!

Karnak Yes, sir! (VOICES ARE HEARD OUTSIDE) That'll be Makary and Paul now! (KARNAK RISES AND OPENS THE DOOR. MAKARY AND PAUL ENTER)

Makary Good evening, Sir.

Paul Good evening, Sir.

Delarov Good evening. Please sit. (THEY SIT ON THE BUNK. KARNAK SITS ON THE CHAIR)

Makary The inventory on the store is completed, Sir!

Paul The warehouse tally is finished, too.

Delarov What about the stores, Makary? What do we have?

Makary It's easy to say. We have nothing, sir!

Delarov No salt, or sugar, of course?

Makary None.

Delarov Tea? Tobacco? Vodka?

Makary (SHAKES HIS HEAD) They were gone six months ago, sir!

Delarov What about flour? We had a little we were saving---

Makary We used the last of it yesterday!

Delarov (SIGHS, AND LOOKS AT THE FISH) So I seem to have discovered! There was no bread this evening. Always before I could disguise the fish and make believe I was eating pie. But now it lies on the plate naked and cold and looks at me defiantly! (THEY LAUGH)

Karnak I'm sure you're a match for it, Commander!

Delarov Not quite. I seem to have talked myself out of an appetite. (PUSHES DISHES ASIDE, WIPES HIS MOUTH) Now to business. (TURNS TO KARNAK) What does the fur record show?

Karnak 781 sea otter, 3200 fox skins, 50 sable, 183 seal.

Delarov Not a very good showing for three years. (TURNING TO PAUL) How much time will you need to complete the repairs on the St. Michael?

Paul Sir! I think we can have the ship ready to sail in four days.

Delarov (SURPRISED) Four days! That soon?

Paul Yes, Sir!

Delarov But you said we had no more oakum!

Paul (LOOKS AT MAKARY)

Makary We found more, sir!

Delarov Where?

Paul In the hold of the ship.

Delarov Izmailov let you in the lockers?

Paul No, sir. We--that is, we could not find Izmailov and we thought we might find some materials in the hold, so we broke open the forward compartment and there was an extra bale of oakum!

Delarov Good! Will one bale be enough?

Paul Yes, sir! The seams on the south side are in good shape.

Delarov (WITH ENTHUSIASM) Four days! And we're ready to sail!

Paul May I ask what your plans are, sir?

Makary Izmailov says that you intend to sail home, sir!

Paul Everybody's wondering!

Delarov Yes! We're going home! (THE MEN REACT WITH ENTHUSIASM) But first I must go to our station at Cook Inlet and get Molokhov.

Makary Molokhov is going with us?

Delarov No. I'll bring him here to manage the colony until they send a new manager from Russia. (THEY ALL START TALKING AT ONCE ABOUT WHAT THEY'LL TAKE, WHO THEY'LL SEE, ETC. WHEN THEY ARE INTERRUPTED BY VOICES OUTSIDE -- "IZMAILOV, WHEN ARE WE LEAVING?" "ARE WE GOING HOME?" "WHO'S GOING TO SAIL HER--YOU OR THE COMMANDER?") Well, at last it seems Captain Izmailov is coming around! (THE VOICES DIE OUT. THERE'S A KNOCK AT THE DOOR) Come in! (IZMAILOV ENTERS, LOOKS AT THE COMMANDER AND THEN AT THE OTHER MEN. DELAROV MOTIONS THE MEN OUT WITH HIS HEAD. THEY LEAVE) Well,

Captain Izmailov, what brings you here?

Izmailov (CROSSES TO BUNK, PICKS UP THE CHART, LOOKS AT IT AND TURNS TO DELAROV) You know what brings me here. Galak tells me the ship will be ready to sail in four days!

Delarov Yes, it seems Paul found just enough oakum in the hold to finish the caulking. Do you happen to know how it got there?

Izmailov (BELLIGERENTLY) No! You think I hid it there?

Delarov I don't know what to think! All I know is the oakum was in the locker in the hold. I ordered the lockers inspected, and since we couldn't find you to get the keys, I ordered the locks broken.

Izmailov (CONTINUING TO PERUSE THE CHART) Well, I see you've charted the route already. When do we sail?

Delarov We? Do you plan to navigate?

Izmailov And who else would?

Delarov You know damn well I would if I had to.

Izmailov (AFTER A LONG PAUSE, KNOWING HE'S BEEN BESTED, HE LAUGHS) You're a good gambler, Eustrate! (LAUGHS AGAIN) It's a lucky thing you're a navigator, or I'd make you squirm!

Delarov (SMILING) I know that only too well. (AT THIS MOMENT A BELL IS HEARD, AND THE EXCITED VOICES OF PEOPLE SHOUTING) That's the signal for a ship!

Izmailov Maybe you'll have to change your plans now, Eustrate.

Delarov If it's the new manager, I'll be happy to change them. (GETS UP, GOES TOWARD THE DOOR, WHEN AN EXCITED KNOCK IS HEARD. THE DOOR IS FLUNG OPEN AND KARNAK POKES HIS HEAD IN)

Karnak It's Botcharov with the new manager! (HE DASHES OFF)

Delarov Thank God! (HE RUNS TO THE WINDOW AND LOOKS OUT)

Izmailov Let's have a look at our new Commander, Eustrate!

Delarov (ALARMED) I see no sails!

Izmailov (RUSHING OUT) Come! (DELAROV FOLLOWS IZMAILOV. THERE IS A BRIEF BLACKOUT WHILE THE INSET IS REMOVED. THE LIGHTS THEN COME UP ON THE CROWD OF EXCITED HUNTERS, ALEUTS, AND CHILDREN GATHERED AT THE BEACH LOOKING OFF LEFT TOWARD THE SEA)

Makary (SHOUTING) Botcharov! Where's your ship? Where's the "Three Saints"?

Botcharov (FROM A LONG DISTANCE) She is gone! She sank at Unalaska. (THE WORDS "THE SHIP SANK" AND "THE THREE SAINTS WENT DOWN", ETC. PASS THROUGH THE CROWD. FRIENDS IN THE SKIN BOATS ARE RECOGNIZED BY SOME OF THE HUNTERS AND SHOUTS OF GREETING ARE EXCHANGED AS THE SKIN BOATS GET NEARER. QUESTIONS RUN THROUGH THE CROWD: "WHO IS THE NEW MANAGER?" "WHAT'S HIS NAME?" "WHERE IS HE?" "WHICH BOAT IS HE IN?", ETC. SOON THE FIRST BOAT PULLS IN U.L. BEHIND THE GROUND ROW. BEARDED, GAUNT, SALT-ENCRUSTED MEN CLIMB OUT. SOME OF THEM STUMBLE AND FALL AS THEY COME ASHORE. THE PEOPLE ON SHORE SHOUT WITH JOY. THEY CLASP EACH OTHER, AND THEY EMBRACE THE MEN COMING OUT OF THE BOATS AND SUPPORT THEM AS THEY WALK. FOR A MOMENT THE CROWD AROUND THE BOATS SHUTS THEM AWAY FROM VIEW OF THE AUDIENCE. DELAROV AND KUSKOV, WHO HAS ARRIVED WITH BARANOV, ARE HIDDEN FROM VIEW)

Kuskov (SHOUTS) Are you Commander Delarov?

Delarov (SHOUTS BACK) Yes!

Kuskov This is Mr. Baranov, the new manager. He is sick with fever. Can we get him to a bed?

Delarov Yes! (A PATH IS CLEARED THROUGH THE CROWD, AND SUDDENLY THE

SHOUTING DIES AS TWO MEN COME THROUGH THE CROWD HOLDING UP
ALEXANDER BARANOV WHO IS DELIRIOUS WITH FEVER AND UNABLE TO WALK)

Delarov (LEADS THEM TOWARD HIS CABIN AND CALLS TO KARNAK) Karnak, make
my bed ready for Mr. Baranov and get down the box of medicines.
He is ill! I shall be there in a moment!

Karmak Yes, Sir! (THE NAME "BARANOV" PASSES QUICKLY THROUGH THE CROWD.
KARNAK DASHES OFF D.L. TO THE MANAGER'S CABIN)

Delarov (SHOUTS ORDERS TO HIS MEN) Paul, take some men and make ready some
bunks in the barracks! Makary, take charge of the unloading! Purtov,
you help Makary! The rest of you get the supplies out of the boats!
(HE IS ANSWERED BY "YES, SIR!" AND "YES, COMMANDER"..ETC. HE THEN
TURNS AND GOES TO THE HUT. AS THE UNLOADING STARTS A LINE IS FORMED
FROM THE BOATS TO OFF STAGE RIGHT AND BUNDLES ARE PASSED FROM PERSON
TO PERSON. AS THEY DO THIS, THEY BEGIN TO SING. IZMAILOV AND
BOTCHAROV HUG AND POUND EACH OTHER. IZMAILOV TAKES BOTCHAROV ASIDE
AND GIVES HIM A DRINK OF HIS HOME MADE VODKA. BOTCHAROV REACTS
VIOLENTLY)

Izmailov Feel better, eh?

Botcharov (TRIES TO CATCH HIS BREATH. NODS "YES". SOME OF THE VILLAGERS
AND NATIVES GATHER AROUND BOTCHAROV, PLYING HIM WITH QUESTIONS SUCH
AS "DID YOU SEE SO-AND-SO BEFORE YOU LEFT?" "DID YOU BRING ALL THE
MAIL?" "HOW IS SO-AND-SO?" "IS CATHERINE STILL EMPRESS?") (THROW-
ING UP HIS HANDS) Wait!. Wait! Wait! How do I answer all the
questions at once?

Galak When did you leave home?

Botcharov A year ago--almost. We left Okhotsk in August!

Izmailov (SHAKES HIS HEAD) That was a bad time to leave. You waited too long.

Botcharov (IRRITATED) I know! I know! (WITH A TRACE OF SARCASM) But Mr. Baranov was not ready.

Izmailov (SHAKES HEAD AGAIN) You should have sailed in June or July.

Botcharov I wanted to, but we had to wait for guns.

Izmailov Guns?

Botcharov (NODS "YES") We put on more guns to fight the pirate. (EXCLAMATIONS OF "PIRATE?" "WHO IS THE PIRATE?" "WHAT DO YOU MEAN?", ETC. ARE HEARD)

Botcharov (CHUCKLES) I'll tell you. (ENJOYS BEING THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION) One night Commander Koch called me and Mr. Baranov to his quarters-- and--

Izmailov Is old Koch still commander at Okhotsk?

Botcharov Yes. Well, Koch said, "I want you to put on more guns. You might have to defend yourselves before you get to America." "Defend ourselves? From what?" I said. "A pirate," he said, "by the name of Coxe." (THE MEN ECHO THE WORD "COXE". Then he read to us a secret message from St. Petersburg. It said, "We are at war with Sweden and we--")

Galak We fight Sweden?

Botcharov Yes!

Galak Who is winning?

Botcharov Ah, who knows!

Galak When did it start?

Botcharov (IRRITATED) I can't remember--sometime! (EXPLODES) Let me tell

you! This Coxe--he's an English pirate. He sails for Sweden.

(POINTING A FINGER AT IZMAILOV) His orders are to sail out here and destroy the fur colony.

Galak Did you see him? Did you see Coxe?

Botcharov Ha! Only a fool would sail in those waters in the Fall!

Izmailov (JUMPING ON IT) You were the fool, Dimitri! You sailed out of Ohkotsk in the Fall!

Botcharov (ANGRY) What could I do? What could I do? When the Commander of Okhotsk says wait--you wait! (JUSTIFYING HIMSELF) I warned them about the storms--

Izmailov When did you weigh anchor?

Botcharov 30----August 30. Mr. Baranov -- at last he came aboard. Every day he and Koch had business. Always they had business, and Oh, let me tell you--(LOOKS AROUND AS THOUGH TO AVOID HAVING HIS WORDS HEARD BY THE WRONG PEOPLE) He's a land lubber!

Izmailov (GRUNTS AND SPITS) A land lubber!

Botcharov That's right! And he couldn't wait till he got aboard to complain about my drinking! (RELISHING IT) Ho! Ho! And you know what I said? We were out in the harbor then -- I said, "Mr. Baranov, when my drinking interferes with my sailing, you can complain! Until then, I don't care what you don't like--because you have to depend on me as long as we're at sea. (LAUGHS)

Izmailov Wh--what did he do then? What then?

Botcharov (LAUGHING) He--he got sick, and he was out of the way for the whole trip! (THEY ALL LAUGH) (ABRUPTLY) Well, we were out about 10 days when we started running out of water.

Izmailov Water!

Botcharov Some of the water casks leaked. We had to go on short rations until we got to Unalaska. We pulled in there on Oct. 7 (LAUGHS INCREASINGLY BETWEEN INCIDENTS) one mast broken--all hands at the pumps--four cases of scurvey--and everybody sea sick. (OVERCOME BY LAUGHTER) Oh, we were a sorry crew! (SOBERS AGAIN) Then we anchored and went ashore. During the night a storm blew up, and you know that harbor---rocks! (IZMAILOV NODS) (BOTCHAROV SHAKES HIS HEAD) She slipped her anchor, piled up on the rocks, and broke in two.

Izmailov (NEEDLING) So you lost her, eh?

Botcharov (GRUDGINGLY) Yes! But we saved most of the supplies!

Izmailov Wh--what did Landlubber Baranov do, eh? (ANTICIPATING AN ENJOYABLE TIDBIT)

Botcharov He's a queer one. Soon as he got off that ship he drove every man like he was crazy. Made them unload the ship, and build huts. Made them hunt for food. He even made them build boats!

Izmailov Boats!

Botcharov Yes! He made them build the Skin boats we came in. He's a queer one. He's not lazy, I'll say that! And while we waited for summer he made the natives teach him how to speak Aleut.

Izmailov (DISAPPOINTED) But he's -- he can't sail a ship, eh?

Botcharov No! (FINALLY SEES HIS SON, IGNATTI, AND STARES AT HIM FOR A MOMENT. RECOGNIZING HIM, HE SOFTENS) You! (MOTIONS TO HIM) Here. (IGNATTI MOVES CLOSER) You my boy? You, Ignatti?

Izmailov That's your boy! That's him!

Botcharov (EMBARRASSED) Well, how are you?

Ignatti (UNSMILING) You better Captain than Izmailov? (GESTURES TOWARD IZMAILOV)

Botcharov Ho! I am indeed, boy! I'm the best Captain that ever sailed a ship out of Siberia!

Izmailov (FORCED TO DEFEND HIMSELF IN FRONT OF HIS OWN SON, PYOTR) Eh? Eh? I sailed from the ports of Siberia when you didn't know what end of the ship went first.

Botcharov Ha! You navigate like a priest. If you're lucky to get the ship into the wind, you turn it loose, and pray. (PUTS HIS HANDS TOGETHER AND LOOKS UP IN MOCK PRAYER, THEN LAUGHS)

Izmailov (ANGRY ** PUSHES BOTCHAROV OFF THE CHOPPING BLOCK) You! You! You are the one who prays while the ship goes on the rocks -- you sail a ship like I fly! (FLAPS HIS ARMS)

Botcharov You old farmer! You couldn't paddle a dinghy with the whole Russian Navy to help you! (THEY SHOUT AND CURSE AND WRESTLE AND ROLL ON THE GROUND. THE CROWD LAUGHS AND CHEERS THEM ON AS THE CURTAIN FALLS)

Scene 3

(three months later--late June)

(THE SCENE IS IN THE MANAGER'S CABIN. IT IS SIMILAR TO SCENE 2 EXCEPT DIFFERENT ARTICLES OF CLOTHING HANG ON THE WALL. BELOW THE BUNK IS A SMALL IRON-GLAD, ROUND TOPPED CHEST. THE ROOM APPEARS TO BE MORE STARK AND SOMEWHAT OUT OF ORDER. A FEW TOOLS ARE STANDING UP AGAINST THE WALL D.R. A GUN STANDS IN THE CORNER ABOVE THE BUNK. SOME DIRTY EATING UTENSILS AND DISHES ARE ON THE TABLE. THERE ARE GLASSES ON THE SHELF ABOVE THE TABLE. ON THE TABLE IS A DISPATCH BOX. KUSKOV IS SITTING AT THE TABLE GOING THROUGH DISPATCHES AND WRITING. HE HEARS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR, CROSSES AND OPENS IT)

Delarov Good Morning, Kuskov.

Kuskov Good Morning, Sir. Come in.

Delarov Alexander Up?

Kuskov Up and gone, sir. He went to the Aleut village to find Izmailov.

Delarov (LAUGHS) That might not be so easy.

Kuskov (RETURNS TO HIS WORK) He should be back in a moment.

Delarov (PACES NERVOUSLY) You're up early, Kuskov.

Kuskov We all are--with your ship sailing today.

Delarov Getting your dispatches ready?

Kuskov Yes, sir.

Delarov Quite a bundle.

Kuskov Mr. Baranov wrote to a great many people. I wrote to a few myself.

Delarov I hope you don't have to wait five years for an answer and then find the answer is no.

Kuskov (SMILES) I got my answer before I left.

Delarov What do you mean?

Kuskov My girl said she would wait for me.

Delarov Five years is a long time to wait.

Kuskov I know! I'll be the first man aboard when my ship sails home. By that time I'll have enough money to get married and build my own store.

Delarov How old are you, Kuskov?

Kuskov Twenty-five.

Delarov (SYMPATHETICALLY) You may realize your dream. I hope so. (CROSSES TO THE DOOR) Tell Alexander we plan to sail at noon on the high tide. I'll be at the ship. (THE VOICE OF BARANOV IS HEARD OUTSIDE)

Kuskov Here he is now, sir!

Baranov (SHOUTING) Galak, if you find Izmailov, tell him I'll need his help to put the "Gods Friend" in the water!

Galak If I tell him that he'll pluck me like a chicken!

Baranov If he does, I'll give you some new feathers!

Galak All right! I'll tell him, but he won't like it! (THE DOOR OPENS AND BARANOV ENTERS. HE IS WEARING ALEUT SKIN BOOTS, CANVAS TROUSERS, AND A SEAL-GUT RAIN PARKA - "KAMLEIKA". HIS BOOTS AND TROUSERS ARE SOAKED WITH WATER)

Baranov Good Morning, Eustrate!

Delarov Good Morning, Alexander.

Baranov (TO KUSKOV) Is there any tea, Kuskov?

Kuskov Plenty, sir. It just needs warming up. (HE LIGHTS THE SAMOVAR CANDLE WITH THE ONE HE IS WORKING BY)

Baranov (PULLING OFF HIS KAMLIEKA) I'm wet to the skin.

Delarov Have you been swimming with the seals?

Baranov (PROCEEDING TO TAKE OFF HIS WET CLOTHING) I might as well have for all I accomplished.

Delarov What is the matter?

Baranov Izmailov! For three days I've looked for him. Last night I heard he was visiting "one of his father-in-laws", old Chief Pahnyak. So I thought I'd play the fox and get up there early and catch him. When I got there, he was gone!

Delarov Are you serious about putting the "God's Friend" in the water?

Baranov Not exactly. I said that to bait Izmailov into coming to see me.

Delarov He'll come all right, if he thinks you're going to do something to one of the ships.

Baranov I know. I learned that from you.

Delarov He won't be very cooperative if he thinks you've tricked him.

Baranov I don't intend to let him think that. Sooner or later we've got to repair that ship anyway, or she'll rot. I'll ask his advice about it.

Delarov May I ask what you really want him for?

Baranov We've got to move out of this Bay. We have no protection from the storms. If we get hit by another tidal wave, the Aleut village will be washed into the sea, and the Shelekhov Company with it.

Delarov What do you want Izmailov to do?

Baranov Izmailov has a lot of influence with Cheif Pahnyak. He could convince the old man that if he wants his people to survive, he'll have to move them out of here.

Delarov Did you talk to the Chief yourself about it?

Baranov Yes, but all he says is "I think. I think."

Delarov Perhaps I can talk with him---

Baranov No! You're leaving today and it's my responsibility to run this colony.

Delarov I know it's irritating when the Aleuts take such a long time to make a decision, but when they do, you can usually count on them to stick to it.

Baranov I can't wait for a decision. The summer is half gone. If we intend to build a new station before winter, we'll have to start moving now.

Delarov You face the same problem I faced when I first came here.

Baranov What's that?

Delarov You have to prove yourself to those people before they'll follow you. Eight years ago when I came here I discovered that every time I would ask my men or one of the Aleuts to do something, they would go to the old manager to see if it was all right. After he left and I had proved myself, it was much easier.

Baranov (SMILES) I can see why I've had so much trouble. I should be glad you're sailing today.

Delarov (LAUGHS)

Baranov But, tell me, what does a man have to do to prove himself?

Delarov That's hard to say, actually. It may take very little. (EXCITED VOICES ARE HEARD OUTSIDE, AND THE BELL ANNOUNCING AN ARRIVAL OF A SHIP OR BOATS IS HEARD. THE MEN RUSH TO THE WINDOW.

Kuskov Skin boats!

Delarov From the mainland.

Kuskov Are they Indians?

Baranov (WHO HAS GRABBED A TELESCOPE FROM A RACK ABOVE THE BUNK) It's --
It's a Russian -- three of them, and some Indians. Here. (HE
GIVES THE TELESCOPE TO DELAROV)

Delarov (LOOKS OUT) It's our manager from Cook Inlet!

Baranov Molokhov?

Delarov Yes. There must be trouble at Fort Alexander. That's the only
reason he would paddle 300 miles in a skin boat.

Baranov Kuskov, while I finish dressing, will you meet Molokhov, and bring
him here? And ask Purtov to get quarters ready for him and his
men, and give them tea and food.

Kuskov Yes, sir. (HE HURRIES OUT)

Delarov It's odd that he should arrive this morning. He must have traveled
last night.

Baranov (GIVES THE TELESCOPE TO DELAROV AND CONTINUES TO DRESS) He could
have. The moon was bright.

Delarov I hope he hasn't had trouble with Konovalov.

Baranov Are you still blaming yourself for letting Konovalov come into Cook
Inlet?

Delarov I'm afraid there's no one else to blame.

Baranov What else could you have done? You had no right to keep the Lebedev
Company out!

Delarov I should have tried.

Baranov And started a war? It's better to try friendship first.

Delarov Our employer doesn't think so.

Baranov Then he should get an exclusive charter or buy out the Lebedev Company. (VOICES ARE HEARD OUTSIDE, THE DOOR OPENS AND KUSKOV AND MOLOKHOV ENTER. HE IS TIRED AND VISIBLY AGITATED. HIS FACE SHOWS THE STRAIN OF THE LONG AND UNCOMFORTABLE TRIP. BARANOV AND DELAROV CROSS TO HIM)

Molokhov Eustrate. It is good to see you. (THEY CLASP EACH OTHER'S HANDS)

Delarov Vassili, this is Alexander Baranov.

Molokhov Alexander! Thank God you are here. I hope you are well.

Baranov Yes, very well.

Molokhov When Eustrate came last month he said you were still weak from fever.

Baranov I'm very well, now. (MOTIONS MOLOKHOV TO THE BUNK) Come, sit. You must be tired from your long trip.

Molokhov (SITTING) Yes.

Kuskov (WHO HAS FILLED A CUP WITH TEA, CROSSES AND GIVES IT TO MOLOKHOV) Will you have some tea, sir?

Molokhov Thank you. (HE DRINKS)

Baranov How long have you been traveling?

Molokhov Six days and three nights.

Delarov Who is with you?

Molokhov Nicholas Rostog, Alexis Chevikoff, and five Indians. One is the nephew of Chief Raskashikov who rules many of the Kenaitze tribes.

Delarov Why did you come, Vassili?

Molokhov We have trouble, Esutrate!

Baranov What about?

Molokhov It's Konovalov!

Delarov I knew it.

Molokhov (VERY AGITATED) He has stirred up all the Indians on the mainland. He has told them he is the lord of all the Russians, (TURNING TO BARANOV) and he laughs when your name is mentioned.

Baranov Has he bothered you, yet?

Molokhov Yes! He has stolen 12 of our Indian hostages. Seven were women. He took the women to his fort, and he killed the men. Chief Raskashikov is angry. He says we did not keep our promise to protect his people. He has called a council of war. He says all the Russian people lie. I told him the Shelekhov Company spoke for the Empress. Konovalov told him I lied, and he would prove it by driving me and the Shelekhov Company out of Cook Inlet. And he will, too, unless we get some help.

Baranov What do you want?

Molokhov Men -- guns -- and a ship!

Delarov Vassili, Mr. Baranov doesn't even have the men he needs here.

Baranov Our guns are old and nearly useless, and the powder is rationed.

Molokhov What about a ship? We could scare him off for awhile if we could sail a ship up the Inlet and fire a few shots.

Baranov The "God's Friend" is the only ship we have. It's on the beach badly in need of repairs.

Molokhov Couldn't we repair it?

Delarov There are no materials, Vassili!

Molokhov (DESPERATE) What are we going to do -- let Konovalov prove his threat? (ALMOST SHOUTING) I told the Chief -- I would go to Baranov, the great leader of the Russians, I told him you would return with a ship and stop this evil man. I brought the Chief's nephew as a hostage to keep the Kenaitze's from starting a war

while I was gone. I told the chief his nephew would return on the ship with the true leader of the Russians. Now I must go back--- a liar! And when I do, it will be to my death and the death of the Shelekhov Company in Cook Inlet. (HE RISES AND STARTS FOR THE DOOR)

Baranov Wait! (THOUGHTFULLY) Maybe we can help. (TURNS TO DELAROV, THINKS OUT LOUD) Eustrate, you are leaving today.

Delarov At noon.

Baranov You're going to stop at Unalaska for seven days.

Delarov That's right.

Baranov Can you reduce it to three?

Delarov (HESITATING) I don't know--we need to complete the repairs -- and--

Baranov Remember--you'll have timbers and nails from the old wreck of the "Three Saints" -- more than you'll need.

Delarov There's the water casks to check and load -----

Baranov You'll have plenty of good ones--you can load them in a half day.

Delarov Maybe we can if ---

Baranov If the weather's good you can do it -- working day and night.

Delarov Perhaps we can-- but what for?

Baranov I want you to sail to Cook Inlet first. It will take you two days to get there. Sail up past Konovalov's fort -- uncover your guns. Let him see you. Then bring Chief Raskashikov aboard, feed him-- give him some ~~gifts~~ and vodka----

Delarov Vodka!

Baranov I have two bottles. Commander Koch gave me. Tell the Chief that Konovalov is a pirate who is breaking the Russian law.

Delarov The Chief will wonder why the man is not punished.

Baranov Tell him the Empress is being patient--and has not yet given the orders to punish him--but that when she does, her justice will be swift. And in the meantime--tell the Chief that he should cooperate with the Shelekhov Company.

Delarov All right, but--

Baranov With the extra days you'll save at Unalaska, you won't lose too much time.

Delarov Yes, but what about you and Molokhov -- and these Indians?

Baranov (SMILES) Here's the plan. You tell Chief Razkashikov that the great leader of the Russians will come soon in another ship to prove to him what you will tell him.

Delarov How can you do that?

Baranov We'll repair the "God's Friend."

Delarov With what?

Baranov With anything we can find. We'll put that ship in the water if we have to make oakum out of moss and fir pitch.

Molokhov. God bless you, Sir!

Baranov If we can do this, we may be able to keep the Chief and the Kenaitzes on our side and bluff Konovalov long enough to get help from home.

Delarov (LAUGHS) It's fantastic, but it may work.

Baranov There's only one more thing---

Delarov What's that?

Baranov I've got to convince old Chief Pahnyak that he must move his people north. If I can do that, then we can use the "God's Friend" to

carry our men and supplies to the site of our new headquarters when we sail for Cook Inlet.

Delarov Seeing two Shelekhov ships in Cook Inlet in one month will be pretty impressive, even to that pirate Konovalov.

Baranov There's only one problem.

Molokhov What?

Baranov Izmailov. I'll need his help to persuade old Pahnyak to leave here. Besides he's the only one left who can sail the ship.
(IZMAILOV'S LAUGHTER IS HEARD OUTSIDE)

Izmailov Yes--yes. I'll meet you at the ship, Galak! Tell Botcharov I'll bring some refreshment. (HE ENTERS, SLIGHTLY INTOXICATED, AND SURVEYS THE ROOM) Well--this is quite a party. (CROSSES TO MOLOKHOV) Heard you were here, Vassili. Did you come to celebrate the departure?

Molokhov I came to see Mr. Baranov.

Izmailov Mr. Baranov, eh? To get help, eh? (LAUGHS) Well, you won't get help from him--- (KUSKOV RISES, AND IS ABOUT TO SHUT IZMAILOV UP, BUT BARANOV STOPS HIM) ---because he's got nothing to help you with-- no men, no guns, and no ship to take you and your Indian friends back in.

Baranov We're going to repair the "God's Friend."

Izmailov (DISBELIEVING) How?

Baranov We'll caulk the hull with moss and fir pitch, put her in the water, and finish her at St. Paul harbor where there's timber.

Izmailov And who's going to sail her?

Baranov You are.

Izmailov And dig my own grave? (SHAKES HIS HEAD) No!

Baranov Izmailov, I'm going to repair that ship and put her in the water, and after a fair test of her hull if you still refuse to sail her, I'll have you put in the stockade for refusing to obey orders, and for jeopardizing the safety of our men at Cook Inlet!

Izmailov (VISCIOUSLY) And what about the safety of the ship and the men aboard her?

Baranov (FIGHTING TO CONTROL HIMSELF) You're bound to fight me, aren't you? If I let that ship rot on the beach because we didn't have the materials to repair her with, you would be the first to accuse me of negligence. And yet, if I find a way to patch her up, you'll say she's unseaworthy whether she is or not!

Delarov (CROSSES TO IZMAILOV) Stepan, don't you remember two years ago when we repaired the "St. Michael" at Resurrection Bay? We had to make some oakum then with moss from the woods. (IZMAILOV IS TAKEN ABACK)

Baranov We have to move out of this storm-ridden bay, and we'll need that ship if we're going to do it before winter sets in. (IZMAILOV, HIS WIND GONE, LOOKS AT DELAROV AS THOUGH HE WERE A TRAITOR, THEN TURNS AND LEAVES)

Molokhov (CROSSES TO BARANOV) Thank you, Alexander. I will go now, and see to my men and the Indians.

Baranov Kuskov, where will Mr. Molokhov be quartered tonight?

Kuskov In Karnak's old quarters in the warehouse. The men will be in the barracks.

Baranov What about the Indians?

Molokhov They prefer their own shelters, Alexander.

Baranov All right. (MOLOKHOV CROSSES TO THE DOOR) After Commander Delarov's ship leaves, will you come and have food with me?

Molokhov Yes, thank you. (HE GOES OUT. BARANOV HEAVES A BIG SIGH AND WALKS TO THE WINDOW AND STANDS LOOKING OUT)

Delarov (CROSSES AND PUTS HIS ARM ON BARANOV'S SHOULDER) Alexander, I fear when I depart today I will leave you with a most untidy colony. I wish that my body and my desires were young again so that I might stay and help you.

Baranov (TURNS SLOWLY) Thank you, my friend. Be not concerned. It is my problem. I will solve it when the time is right. In the meantime, my good Kuskov here will remind me of the youth and the vigor that I may want to forget--eh, Ivan?

Kuskov (WITH DEEP DEVOTION TO BARANOV) Yes, sir!

Baranov As for my desires--they lost their youth in Siberia when the Chuckchi Indians descended upon me and robbed me of the furs that would have given me retirement and peace for the rest of my life. (WITH A BITTER LAUGH) That, Eustrate, is why I am here -- to work for five years -- regain that wealth and then go home to my family and my friends where I can live out my life telling big stories to my children and bigger ones to my old cohorts in the vodka shops while my mind gets weak and my bones brittle. (BARANOV LAUGHS AND DELAROV AND KUSKOV JOIN HIM) Oh, I nearly forgot! (CROSSES TO A SMALL IRON CLAD SEA CHEST BELOW THE TABLE AND PROCEEDS TO OPEN IT AS HE TALKS) Nothing but the safety of the colony could make me sacrifice these precious spirits! (HE PRODUCES TWO STRAW PACKED BOTTLES OF VODKA) But before I bid them goodbye, we

shall drink a toast to your departure, Eustrate! (HE PLACES THE BOTTLES ON THE TABLE, AND TAKES TWO GLASSES FROM THE SHELF, UNCORKS ONE OF THE BOTTLES AND POURS) I'm sure you can pacify Razkashikov on a bottle and a half, eh?

Delarov We need another glass.

Kuskov I--I don't--

Baranov Poor Kuskov here is keeping himself pure for his lady. He doesn't drink vodka! Can you believe it?

Delarov How sad!

Baranov Yes! It's the only vice he has! (HE RAISES HIS GLASS) To a safe, and storm-free voyage. May the good St. Michael protect his namesake vessel to the ports of home! (THEY DRINK)

Delarov And may God give you strength for your task here, Alexander. (TURNS TO KUSKOV) Kuskov, would you be so kind as to check the loading of the furs and ask Karnak if the food and other supplies are aboard?

Kuskov Certainly, sir! (KUSKOV LEAVES)

Delarov Well, Alexander, I must admit I am happy that today I return, but I am unhappy that I leave you with so many problems to face.

Baranov You faced them! I shall do likewise.

Delarov I regret that Izmailov opposes your plan to move the village. I knew he would fight it.

Baranov I tried to tell him how much better and safer the new place would be for the Aleuts. A beautiful harbor free from storms.

Delarov The one we named St. Paul?

Baranov (NODS) If these villagers suffer another tidal wave like the one

last month, there won't be enough of them left to move. But, with Izmailov's help, I know we could convince them to go.

Delarov I fear you'll have to convince them alone, Alexander.

Baranov Why has Izmailov set himself against me? It's enough that we have to worry about Konovalov without having to fight among ourselves.

Delarov Alexander, you are suffering the curse of being a landlubber. Izmailov thinks Shelekhov should have appointed a seafaring man, or man of rank as manager of the colony.

Baranov (LOOKS HARD AT DELAROV AND POURS HIMSELF AND DELAROV ANOTHER DRINK, LEAVING THE BOTTLE OPEN) I thought I had counted all the costs when I agreed to come here, but now I find there's a price I had not bargained on paying.

Delarov What is that?

Baranov My ignorance of the sea, my inability to navigate. I was sent here to build the colony to the glory of Shelekhov and the Empire. I have been given bounteous shares in the company that I might conquer this country and deliver its wealth to our employer, and its people to our Empress. And now I find that I have been deceived.

Delarov Deceived? How have you been deceived?

Baranov (STIMULATED BY THE VODKA) You should ask that, Eustrate, when you yourself are a part of that deception.

Delarov I?

Baranov Yes. Shelekhov did not tell me that I would be crippled for being a landlubber--(WITH A TRACE OF BITTERNESS) a mere trader -- the

lowest of my class. In the eyes of Izmailov, I am little more than a peasant.

Delarov But how have I deceived you?

Baranov By your silence! (BARANOV TURNS TO DELAROV) For the past month you have been helpful in every way except in the matter of sailing. All around the island, wherever the ship has traveled, you have come along to navigate or to give orders to Izmailov or Botcharov to master the ship.

Delarov But who else could master the ship?

Baranov You miss my point, Eustrate. Let me make it clearer. You! You have been the one to give them orders, not I, the manager of the colony! And you have avoided every question I've asked about navigating in these waters.

Delarov Alexander, I---

Baranov I haven't even been allowed to see your charts, and one would think your slide rules and protractors held some dark secret the way you hover over them when I'm on board.

Delarov My good friend, you--

Baranov (PRESSING TO FINISH HIS POINT) All three of you gave me false answers when I wanted to learn about navigation. My authority it seems, rests on the whims of those who master the ships.

(BARANOV PICKS UP THE BOTTLE AGAIN) I had to make a choice of which captain should stay here - Izmailov or Botcharov. I chose Izmailov only because I felt he would be the lesser evil of the two. (POURS ANOTHER DRINK) Never was there a trade guild in all Russia as jealous of its secrets as your clan of navigators -- and

you, my friend, for all your kindness, are as jealous as the rest.

(SITS AT THE TABLE, PUTTING HIS FEET ON IT)

Delarov (RISES, CROSSES TO THE TABLE, POURS HIMSELF ANOTHER DRINK) Yes. Perhaps I am. When I was a boy, I learned to sail. And I discovered a pride of belonging to the men of the sea. I fear I haven't lost the selfish desire to protect the exclusive privilege of being a captain of my own ship. (A BELL IS HEARD OUTSIDE)

Baranov That protective instinct has left me crippled, Eustrate, for there is no time left to learn from you. Your ship sails within the hour.

Delarov Forgive me, Alexander. Perhaps I can make it up to you now that I have become a director in the company. Perhaps I can see to it that Shelekhov sends you a cooperative navigator.

Baranov Let him not be of Russian birth. Then perhaps I can persuade him to let go of some of his precious secrets.

Delarov I promise you I'll do all in my power to help you. (HE TURNS AND PICKS UP THE DISPATCH BOX) Have you finished all your dispatches?

Baranov Not quite. I'm still working on the one about our needs for expanding the colony.

Delarov When you finish, I'll lock them up and put them in my cabin.

Baranov I have said in every way I know that we need more supplies and guns, and five times the number of men. Unless we get them, we can't build new headquarters at St. Paul or any new trading stations. I've written about food, clothing, and trade goods. Already we are losing the respect of the natives. We are the conquering race, and yet they see that we are in want. And ships,

Eustrate! We need ships! If they can't send us any, in the name of God, ask them to send us a ship builder and the tools and materials and rigging. (BARANOV, CAUGHT UP IN HIS OWN DRAMATIZATION, RISES) and, by God, if we have to, we'll rip one out of this land! (RAISES HIS GLASS AND LOOKS UP) We'll lift one like a bird out of the ashes of this land. (THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR)

Baranov Yes?

Kuskov (ENTERS AND STANDS NEAR THE DOOR) (TO DELAROV) Sir, they've taken the last load of furs to the ship. The supplies and food are aboard. Do you want the men to go aboard now, sir?

Delarov Not yet, Kuskov. (HE RISES) I want to speak with them first. (TURNS TO BARANOV) Alexander, our interests are tied together by country and occupation, and when I return I promise you I'll do everything I can to get you the support you need. (HE CROSSES TO THE DOOR)

Baranov Just send me an agreeable navigator and a ship!

Delarov (LAUGHS) If I were able, I would send you Orion himself! (HE LEAVES)

Kuskov What did he mean by that, Sir? Who is Orion?

Baranov (WITH GOOD HUMOR) My good Ivan, I can only guess that he must be a damn good navigator! Come, let us add our blessing to the departure! (THEY GO TOWARD THE DOOR. THERE IS A BRIEF BLACKOUT WHILE THE INSET IS REMOVED. DURING THIS TRANSITION THE NOISE OF A SCUFFLE AND ANGRY VOICES ARE HEARD AS BARANOV AND KUSKOV WALK OUT OF THE CABIN DOOR TO SEE KARNAK LEADING A FRIGHTENED NATIVE BOY AWAY FROM THE SHIP. AN ANGRY HUNTER IS STRUGGLING TO GET THE BOY

AWAY FROM KARNAK. COMING TOWARD THEM FROM BELOW THE MANAGER'S CABIN IS AN ALEUT WOMAN, THREE DETERMINED LOOKING ALEUT MEN, AND AN OLD CHIEF. THEY MEET DOWN CENTER. OTHERS GATHER AROUND. DELAROV BREAKS THROUGH THE GATHERING U.R. BARANOV AND KUSKOV ARE D.L. NEAR THE ALEUTS.

Delarov (DISTURBED) What does this mean?

Old Chief (TELLS DELAROV IN ALEUT LANGUAGE WHAT HAS HAPPENED, REMINDING HIM OF THE ALEUT LAWS)

Woman (NODS AND SPEAKS IN AGREEMENT)

Delarov One moment! Karnak, was Purtoov trying to smuggle this boy aboard?

Karnak Yes, sir. I found the boy stowed away in the hold.

Delarov (CROSSES TO PURTOOV AND PUTS HIS HAND ON PURTOOV'S SHOULDER) If it were within my power, I would gladly have granted you the right to take your son. You know that! So why did you defy me?

Purtoov (IN ANGUISH) The rule is wrong! Why must our children stay here? This boy is my blood. I want to take him home. I want to raise him with my people.

Old Chief He is blood of my people, too. It is our law--child belong to mother until he grow up. (POINTS TO BOY) Boy stay here ! (POINTS TO ONE OF THE ALEUT MEN) Boy's uncle will be father to him when you go to Russia.

Aleut Man (THE UNCLE CROSSES TO THE BOY, AND BEGINS TO PULL HIM AWAY. THE BOY CRIES OUT IN RESISTANCE)

Purtoov (ANGERED) Get away from him! (PURTOOV LUNGES FOR THE ALEUT, PULLING OUT HIS KNIFE AS HE DOES SO)

Baranov (LEAPS BETWEEN THEM, KICKS PURTOOV IN THE SHINS, AND KNOCKS THE

KNIFE OUT OF HIS HAND. KUSKOV RETRIEVES THE KNIFE. THE CROWD MOVES BACK) There is also a law that the people of this land shall not be unjustly harmed by any of my men.

Purtov I am not your man!

Baranov You are under orders to me until you are aboard that ship and underway. (HE CALLS TWO OF HIS MEN) Molakar, Morotin, take this man to the stake. Give him 10 lashes for insubordination and for breaking the law.

Uncle (FEELING SAFE, HE FOLLOWS PURTOV AND BEGINS HURLING INVECTIVES AFTER HIM)

Baranov (PULLS THE ALEUT AROUND AND SHOUTS IN ALEUT LANGUAGE) Hold your tongue, or you will suffer, too! (THEN HE SHOUTS TO THE OTHERS WHO ARE STANDING) Go on about your business! (THEY DISPERSE)

Delarov (CROSSES TO BARANOV) Alexander. May I speak for Purtov. He is the best hunter I had. He loves his son dearly! And the boy worships him. It will leave a deep scar to have him disciplined and humiliated before his son and his friends.

Baranov (PONDERING A MOMENT) Molakar! Morotin! Turn him loose. (HE CROSSES U.R. TO PURTOV) Purtov -- your heart is set on returning to Russia?

Purtov (SMARTING) Why not! I have worked out my time, and three years more! I earned the right to go home!

Baranov What will you do when you get home?

Purtov (HESITATES) I will hunt, and trap, maybe. I don't know.

Baranov You don't know! And yet you would take your son away from his mother, his friends and his country just so you could have him with

you.

Purtov But he wants to go!

Baranov He is too young to know what it means. He would be lost.

Purtov I would take care of him. I would work for him. I would see he went to school.

Baranov He would die in a year. He is not ready to be taken away from his people. He is not prepared for our country.

Purtov (BEGINNING TO GIVE GROUND) But--this boy--he is my blood. He looks like me. I--I want him to have learning. (THINKING BACK, REGRET-FULLY) I never had learning.

Baranov (PAUSES TO COLLECT HIS THOUGHTS, THEN TURNS QUICKLY TO PURTOV) Stay here for one more term as chief of my hunters. I'll double your share of the catch. Stay here where you can help your son. And I shall see that he has learning.

Purtov (LOOKING AROUND WITH DISDAIN AND DISBELIEF) Who can teach him here?

Baranov You can! -- to begin with. You can teach him to be a good hunter and trapper. You can help him become strong and wise.

Purtov But I want him to learn reading and writing.

Baranov He shall have that, too.

Purtov How can he learn that?

Baranov He will learn from a priest.

Purtov (SURPRISED) A priest?

Baranov Yes! It is the desire of our worthy employer, Grigor Shelekhov, to civilize the people of this land -- to teach them in the ways of our country. Well, he shall have the chance. (CALLS TO KUSKOV) Kuskov! Get the box of dispatches, my pen and paper. We shall

add a final request to our list of needs.

Kuskov Yes, sir! (RUNS INTO THE CABIN)

Delarov (CROSSES TO BARANOV) You are an opportunist, Alexander. I have no doubt that you will conquer the problems you find so heavy now.

Kuskov (RETURNS WITH THE DISPATCHES. BARANOV MOVES U.S. TO A SMALL ROUGH BOARD STRUCTURE USED AS A CHECK-OFF TABLE WHEN LOADING SHIPS. KUSKOV PUTS DISPATCH BOARD AND INK ON THE TABLE.)

Baranov Write what I tell you.

Kuskov (DIPS THE PEN INTO THE INK) Yes, sir. (AT THIS POINT SEVERAL ALEUT CHILDREN GATHER AROUND)

Baranov "My dear friend, I would add this special note to my reports. Today, it has been made clear that your noble desires must be carried out, to convert the children of this land to Christianity, and to educate them in our language and our way of life. Only in this way can they become faithful citizens of Russia. This, of course, will require a learned man, a man of God. Therefore, I request that on the next ship you send me a priest. Choose one who is intelligent, able to get along with others, not bigoted, and above all, sincere."

Your friend and obedient servant

(TAKES THE PEN AND REPEATS HIS NAME AS HE SIGNS IT --

ALEXANDER ANDREIVICH BARANOV. KUSKOV FOLDS THE LETTER, PLACES IT IN THE DISPATCH BOX, PUTS A CHAIN AND LOCK ON IT. HE THEN HANDS THE KEY TO COMMANDER DELAROV AS BARANOV SECURES PURTOV'S KNIFE FROM KUSKOV, CROSSES TO PURTOV AND HOLDS OUT THE KNIFE TO HIM. PURTOV TAKES THE KNIFE) Will you stay?

Purtov (LOOKS AT BARANOV, THEN THE MEN, AND THEN AT HIS SON. THE BOY GRINS, PURTOV SMILES) I will stay. (BARANOV HOLDS OUT HIS HAND. PURTOV TAKES IT. PURTOV WALKS TOWARD HIS SON) Come, Peter, we must get the chest and the sea bags from the ship. (THEY GO OFF U.L. HAND IN HAND)

Old Chief CROSSES TO BARANOV) You do your people ---- my people ---- same. That is good.

Baranov Old and wise father, you remember when my people did not treat your people the same.

Old Chief (NODS)

Baranov That was not good. It is different now. (HE POINTS AT DELAROV) He was different!

Old Chief (NODS)

Baranov (POINTS TO HIMSELF) I am different. (OLD CHIEF GRINS AND NODS. BARANOV POINTS TO THE CHIEF THEN TO HIS OWN TEMPLE) You are wise. (POINTS TO HIMSELF, THEN OPENS HIS HANDS TOWARDS THE CHIEF) I will need your help.

Old Chief (NODS AGAIN) My people follow you. You want my people go to new village where big wind will not hurt them. (GRINS) They will go.

Baranov (DEEPLY MOVED - TAKES OLD CHIEF'S HAND) Thank you.

Karnak (COMES TO DELAROV) Sir, captain Botcharov says the tide is right and he must sail now.

Delarov All right. Have the bell rung for departure.

Karnak Yes, sir.

Delarov (CROSSES TO BARANOV AND TAKES HIS HAND) Well, Alexander, I think you've proved yourself. Izmailov will have to cooperate. Now, I must go. If God is willing, I shall carry your good words and your

desires to the proper authorities. And I shall see that your messages to your wife and your brother are delivered safely.

Baranov You have my gratitude, Eustrate.

Delarov Before we leave, will you ask God's blessing for our journey?

Baranov I am a poor one to substitute for a priest, but I shall do so if you wish.

Delarov Yes. (TURNS) Hear me, all of you! Mr. Baranov will ask God's protection for our long voyage!

Baranov (THE MEN UNCOVER AND BOW THEIR HEADS) God, that I of such humble station should intercede for the safety of these men seems not right, but as we have no man of God to speak for us, I ask that you hear me and grant them safe guidance on their voyage home. Amen.

Delarov Thank you, Alexander. God be with you. (HE SHAKES HIS HAND. THEY EMBRACE. DELAROV THEN TURNS AND SHOUTS) All men aboard! (THE BELL BEGINS TO RING. THERE IS A WEEPING AND WAILING BY THE ALEUT WOMEN AND CHILDREN. GOODBYES ARE SHOUTED. MEN ARE SEEN CLIMBING A ROPE LADDER TO THE SHIP, LINES ARE PULLED IN. THERE IS SHOUTING OF ORDERS BY BOTCHAROV. IZMAILOV IS BEING LED OFF THE SHIP BY GALAK. IZMAILOV IS SO DRUNK HE CAN BARELY NAVIGATE. HE WOBBLER ACROSS THE STAGE SINGING A SONG AND DISAPPERAS OFF D.R. THE REST OF THE CROWD BEGIN TO SING A PATRIOTIC SONG AS THE LIGHTS DIM AND THE CURTAIN CLOSES)

ACT II

Scene 1

(June 1792 one year later, an hour before sunset)

(THE SCENE IS SET IN THE SQUARE OF THE NEW SHELEKHOV HEAD-
QUARTERS AT ST. PAUL. THE SHIP "EAGLE" IS JUST ARRIVING FROM
RUSSIA UNDER THE COMMAND OF JAMES SHIELDS, AN ENGLISH NAVIGATOR,
IN THE SERVICE OF RUSSIA. THE SHIP IS BRINGING MEN, FOUR
PRIESTS, GUNS AND AMMUNITION, FOOD, AND LUXURIES SUCH AS TOBACCO,
TEA, VODKA, ETC. ONE OF THE SHIP'S OFFICERS IS A NEWLY COM-
MISSIONED MIDSHIPMAN IN THE RUSSIAN NAVY BY THE NAME OF GAVRIL
TALIN.

AS THE SCENE OPENS (BEFORE CURTAIN OPENS) THE WARNING BELL IS
HEARD, AND THE CRY "SHIP!" "SHIP!" "RUSSIAN COLORS!" ETC. AS
THE CURTAIN OPENS, A RUSSIAN HUNTER AND A COUPLE OF ALEUT BOYS
RUSH FROM U.R. TO D.L. AND DISAPPEAR. OTHERS FOLLOW AND STREAM
ACROSS STAGE FROM RIGHT STAGE ENTRANCES TO LEFT STAGE ENTRANCES.
SOME STAND ON OBJECTS - BARRELS, SLEDGE, WAGON, ETC., AND LOOK
IN A GENERAL D.L. DIRECTION, SHADING THEIR EYES. KUSKOV APPEARS,
FOLLOWED BY A BENGAL NATIVE BOY BY THE NAME OF RICHARD. KUSKOV
HAS A TELESCOPE. HE TAKES A LOOK, THEN TURNS TO RICHARD AND
POINTS U.R.)

Kuskov

Go find Mr. Baranov. Tell him a ship is here! He is cutting
timber! He may not hear the bell. Hurry! (RICHARD RUNS OFF
D.R. SOON A GREAT SHOUTING IS HEARD AND THE BOOM OF A CANNON
REVERBERATES FROM A DISTANCE. MORE AND MORE MEN GATHER IN THE
SQUARE AND JUMP UP AND DOWN FOR JOY. THEY PICK OUT THE NAME OF

THE SHIP "EAGLE" AND PASS IT AROUND. KUSKOV HURRIES OFF D.L.

SHOUTING:) Pull the guns out! We'll answer their salute!

(SOME OF THE MEN HAUL TWO SMALL CANNON ACROSS THE STAGE FROM U.R. TO D.L. DURING THIS BUSTLE OF ACTIVITY, SHOUTS ARE HEARD FROM OFF STAGE D.L.)

1st voice They're putting out a boat!

2nd voice Look! There's a priest!

1st voice There's three of them. No! There's four!

Molakar Why in hell did they bring four priests?

Galak To save your miserable soul. (LAUGHS)

Molakar Oh, ho! Look who has returned! Makary and Paul! They said they'd never come back. (LAUGHS) I wonder why?

Galak I know why? They spent all their money in Okhotsk! (LAUGHS)

2nd voice (OFF STAGE, SHOUTING) Hello, Makary! Hello, Paul!

Makary & Paul Hello!

Molakar Oh--look at that fellow with the red hair!

Galak Did you ever see anything so ugly!

Molakar I wonder where they got him?

Galak (LAUGHS) He looks like a walking beacon! (ANOTHER GREAT SHOUT IS HEARD OFF STAGE) There she goes! (THE PEOPLE ON STAGE PUT THEIR FINGERS IN THEIR EARS. THE CANNON FIRES. THE SOUND IS THUNDEROUS) The Aleuts will think we're starting a war! (CANNON FIRES AGAIN) Look at him load that gun! I'll bet he wouldn't work that hard if we were fighting the Indians. (CANNON FIRES AGAIN) He'll probably ask Baranov for a medal when he gets through with this! (THE CANNON FIRES AGAIN FOLLOWED BY A GREAT SHOUT. THEN

GREETINGS ARE EXCHANGED. THE PEOPLE OFF STAGE MAKE THEIR ENTRANCE,
SOME D.L. AND SOME LEFT AND U.L.)

Galak (SHOUTING TO PAUL AND MAKARY, WHO ARE AMONG THE FIRST TO ENTER) I'll
bet you forgot to hold on to your purse when you got to Okhotsk!
(LAUGHS)

Paul You haven't changed a bit, have you, Galak?

Galak I'm too old. (OTHERS CROWD AROUND PAUL AND MAKARY, EXCHANGING
GREETINGS)

Kuskov (ENTERS THE SQUARE FROM D.L. FOLLOWED BY THE FOUR PRIESTS, CAPTAIN
SHIELDS, MIDSHIPMAN GAVRIL TALIN, AND TWO SAILORS) Welcome to St.
Paul!

F. Afanassi Thank God we're safe!

F. Nectar God has been with us all the way, Mr. Baranov

Kuskov I'm not Mr. Baranov, He's cutting timber, but he will be here soon.
(POINTING OUT THE SQUARE) This is our public square. We just
finished it.

F. Makar (POINTING TO SEVERAL OF THE NEARBY BUILDINGS) What are these
buildings?

Kuskov (WITH PRIDE AND ENTHUSIASM, POINTS OUT SOME OF THE BUILDINGS AND
AREAS) That's the barracks down there! (U.R.) We just finished
building that. This is Mr. Baranov's house. (R.S.) Those are
warehouses and tool buildings, and this is our store. (L.S.) It's
been empty since we built it.

Galak You arrived just in time to be store manager, Makary! (LAUGHS)

Kuskov Over there (U.L.) is our salt house! That's our flag pole. We
put it up two days ago, but the flag is a little old. (THE REACTION

OF THE PRIESTS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FATHER HERMAN, IS COOL AND AUSTERE. THIS ALSO IS THE REACTION OF MR. TALIN)

F. Nectar While we are waiting for Mr. Baranov, perhaps you could show us to our quarters.

Kuskov (NONPLUSSED) Your quarters, sir? We, uh--(AT THIS POINT THERE IS A COMMOTION OFF U.R. AND BARANOV BREAKS THROUGH THE CROWD THAT HAS GATHERED AROUND THE GROUP FROM THE SHIP. BARANOV IS FOLLOWED BY PURTOV AND SEVERAL OTHER MEN. THEY ARE DIRTY AND SWEATY. THEY ARE CARRYING THEIR OUTER CLOTHING AND THEIR AXES. BARANOV HAS A SEAMAN TYPE SWEATER ON. PURTOV AND THE OTHERS ARE STRIPPED TO THE WAIST. BARANOV IS VISIBLY SURPRISED TO SEE FOUR PRIESTS, BUT HE IS SO OVER-JOYED THAT A SHIP AND PEOPLE HAVE COME THAT HE CLASPS THE HAND OF FATHER NECTAR)

Baranov Forgive me for not being here to receive you. We are certainly blessed this day.-- And we have need of blessing! If your ship hadn't come, I think we'd have turned into savages.

F. Nectar We have need to give thanks to God for our protection and deliverance. And what better time than now while we are all gathered here. (FATHER NECTAR HOLDS OUT HIS HANDS --LIFTS HIS HEAD, AND CLOSES HIS EYES. BARANOV KNEELS. SLOWLY THE OTHERS FOLLOW. THE ALEUTS WHO ARE THERE DO NOT KNEEL, BUT LOOK ON CURIOUSLY) Oh, good and wise Father, Thou hast seen fit to be kind to us who are unworthy of Thy grace. Thou hast delivered us safely into a strange land where we may, with Thy help, build a new kingdom among the children of the wilderness. We ask for Thy strength and guidance in this task. We give Thee

thanks for Thy protection during our long and perilous journey. We ask that Thou wilt bless this struggling colony, the devoted laborers from our own country and the children of this country. May we soon be united in the brotherhood of our gracious lord, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen (THE OTHER PRIESTS ECHO THE AMEN) Mr. Baranov, I would like you to meet my fellow workers. This is Father Makar. (FATHER MAKAR BOWS HIS HEAD STIFFLY, CUTTING OFF BARANOV'S ADVANCE TO GREET HIM. BARANOV NODS HIS HEAD) This is Father Afanassi. (FATHER AFANASSI CROSSES TO BARANOV)

F. Afanassi (ZEALOUSLY) It is good that God has brought us to this land of savage people! (HE PUTS HIS HAND ON BARANOV'S ARM) We shall deliver them to Christ! (BARANOV, SLOWLY LOSING HIS CHILDISH DELIGHT IN THE ARRIVAL OF THE SHIP, MERELY NODS HIS HEAD AGAIN)

F. Nectar And this is Father Herman.

F. Herman (CROSSING TO BARANOV) I hope I can help you, Mr. Baranov. Perhaps you could use a teacher? (HE SMILES AND HOLDS OUT HIS HAND)

Baranov (GRASPS HIS HAND) Thank you! We certainly can. We have many boys and girls -- the children of our hunters and the Aleut children--

F. Afanassi The children of the hunters--born out of wedlock?

Baranov --Well, yes, but not the way--

F. Afanassi Indeed, it is good that we came when we did. If we had come--

F. Nectar Father Afanassi, perhaps we can discuss this after we are settled. (TURNS TO JAMES SHIELDS) This is Captain Shields-- from England.

Shields (INTERJECTING) Now in the service of Russia.

F. Nectar Captain Shields is a navigator and ship builder. He built the "Eagle". And she brought us here in six weeks.

Baranov Six weeks! You've nearly broken a record, Captain!

Shields That is what one of your hunters said.

Baranov We're certainly glad you're here. A navigator is more valuable than vodka. (SHIELDS LAUGHS) Captain Izmailov is our only navigator.

Shields I'd like to meet him. I'll need his advice before I sail in these waters.

Baranov He's on the "St. Michael" now, guarding the Aleuts.

Shields Guarding them!

Baranov Yes. They've been out three weeks hunting sea otter near the mainland. We have enemies over there--hostile Indians, and the Lebedev Company manager, Konovalov, who is doing his best to start a war with us.

Shields I've heard about this Konovalov fellow.

Baranov He was quiet for awhile, but he has started his treachery again.

Shields I'll do all I can to help you before I return to Russia in the Spring. But you're lucky, Mr. Baranov. I brought another navigator -- Mr. Talin from St. Petersburg, a midshipman in the Imperial Navy. He'll stay with you.

Baranov Welcome, Mr. Talin. If you want to sail, you'll have plenty of it to do here.

Talin (FORMALLY) Thank you.

Shields When will Captain Izmailov return?

Baranov We expected him two days ago, but he may have been delayed by storms. Now, I'd like you to meet some of my fellow workers. (TURNS TO KUSKOV) This is Ivan Kuskov -- my clerk, secretary, and advisor.

F. Nectar Oh, yes. I remember bringing a letter for him from Totemsk.

Kuskov (EAGERLY) That's from home. That's from my girl. May I have it, sir?

F. Nectar It's in one of the mail bags. They're being unloaded, aren't they, Captain Shields?

Shields Yes, they should be off the ship now. I'll see to them. (HE CALLS TO THE TWO SAILORS AND LEAVES D.L.)

Kuskov (FOLLOWS HIM) I'll go with you, sir. (TWO OR THREE OF THE OTHER MEN FOLLOW)

F. Herman I can understand their eagerness for mail.

Baranov This is Igor Purtov, my chief of hunters -- a good man with a gun -- and good with a knife, too, eh Purtov?

Purtov (HOLDING UP HIS AXE AND GRINNING) And the axe, too. (HE BRANDISHES HIS AXE. HE SEES HIS SON PETER AND CALLS) Peter! Come here! (CROSSES TO FATHER HERMAN) You teach my son?

F. Herman I would be happy to teach him. (PETER COMES CAUTIOUSLY FROM BEHIND SOME OF THE OTHERS U.R. HE IS FOLLOWED BY PYOTR IZMAILOV AND IGNATTI BOTCHAROV. PETER MOVES CLOSER TO HIS FATHER. PURTOV REACHES FOR HIM, BUT THE BOY IS AFRAID OF THE PRIEST AND STAYS OUT OF HIS FATHER'S REACH. THIS ANNOYS PURTOV, AND HE LUNGES FOR HIM. PETER RUNS LIKE A DEER, AND ESCAPES D.R. THE CROWD LAUGHS)

Purtov (SHAKES HIS HEAD AS HE TURNS BACK TO FATHER HERMAN) You see--

he needs learning. (THE CROWD LAUGHS AGAIN)

F. Herman He is afraid now. But we will get acquainted -- and he won't be afraid any more.

Baranov (LOOKS U.R. AND CALLS) Richard!

Richard (CROSSES FROM BEHIND SOME HUNTERS AND ALEUTS) Yes, sir?

Baranov Will you tell the women to prepare the ducks--and the fresh halibut?

Richard Yes, sir? (HE LEAVES)

Baranov (NOTICING THE PRIESTS' SURPRISE) You are surprised to see my man Richard. He was a gift of Captain Moore, an Irish navigator, who came into Cook Inlet with a broken mast two months ago.

Shields Captain Hugh Moore?

Baranov Yes--did you know him!

Shields Only through skippers' talk. East India Company?

Baranov (FORGETTING ABOUT THE PRIESTS) Yes! Yes! We had a long visit aboard his ship--until his mast was repaired and his rum was about to run out. We drank it every night for a week. We used to make bets on which one of us would fall first. (BOTH LAUGH) He paid his debt by making me a gift of his body servant, Richard.

F. Nectar Mr. Baranov, would you kindly show us to our quarters?

Baranov (IRRITATED BY THE ATTITUDES OF THE PRIESTS) Father Nectar, I must apologize for our meagre fare. We have no quarters for five priests. And with the new workers you have brought, it will be difficult even to get all of you into the barracks. St. Paul is a young village. We are striving hard to complete it by winter and still keep up the business of the colony which is hunting for furs. Purtoov! Morotin! Will you kindly help the good fathers

with their things? (TURNING TO NECTAR) They will show you to the barracks. (BARANOV, IGNORING THEM, TURNS TO GO TO THE SLEDGE, AND SEES PAUL AND MAKARY) Paul! Makary! (BARANOV GRABS THEIR HANDS) You've come back! Why? Why?

Paul Ah, you can guess. (LOOKS AROUND EMBARRASSED. GALAK, WHO HAS WALKED UP, CHUCKLES)

Makary We had lots of money and, you know-- we wanted to have a good time before we left Okhotsk for our homes.

Paul Yes, and we never left! There was no better job than this-- so we signed up for three more years.

Baranov Good! Quarters here are better than Three Saints Bay. We have a new warehouse, Paul -- and a new store, Makary. You can start right where you left off.

Paul That's what we were hoping.

Baranov We'll talk about it tomorrow. But now it's time for celebration! (JUMPS UP ON THE SLEDGE AND SHOUTS) Bring the logs! Start the fire! There will be no more work today and tomorrow is Sunday-- a day of rest! (CROWD CHEERS) This is a time for feasting and drinking! We'll celebrate the arrival of the "Eagle". (THE CROWD CHEERS AGAIN AS KUSKOV, SHIELDS, AND THE SAILORS RETURN WITH THE BAGS OF MAIL THE MEN BRING IN LOGS AND BRUSH, AND PLACE THEM IN THE STONE FIREPLACE ENCLOSURE D.C., AND PROCEED TO LIGHT A FIRE WITH FLINT AND STEEL)

Kuskov (JUMPS UP ON THE WAGON AND SCREAMS) Come for you mail! (AGAIN THERE ARE HOWLS AND CHEERS AS THE MEN GATHER AROUND THE WAGON AND BEGIN TO RECEIVE THEIR MAIL. THEIR REACTIONS TO READING THE MAIL ARE INTERSPERSED WITH THE MAIN DIALOGUE OF THE PLAY)

Talin (WHO HAS HUNG BACK, CROSSES TO SHIELDS WHO HAS APPROACHED BARANOV)
Sir, with your permission I think I'd rather stay aboard the ship tonight.

Shields All right--if you want to.

Talin Thank you. I'll take my things down. (HE TURNS AND WALKS OFF D.L. CARRYING HIS SEA BAG)

Baranov What is the matter with your young officer?

Shields I don't know. I think he expected the colony to be different.

Baranov What did he expect-- a small St. Petersburg?

Shields I shouldn't be surprised.

Baranov Out here we learn to expect little except survival -- and sometimes not even that. Our mother country finds it easy to forget she has a child struggling here to get out of the wilderness, 4000 miles from home. Whoever comes here must expect to be forgotten until he returns.

Shields That's a gloomy picture you paint.

Baranov I'm sorry, Captain Shields. This is no time for gloom. Did you bring vodka?

Shields Yes. I thought you'd be wanting it, so I ordered it to be unloaded first.

Baranov Good! How much did you bring?

Shields A total of fifteen kegs!

Baranov Fifteen! That's more than the colony has seen in five years!

Shields Commander Delarov advised it when he returned from here. There is also a large chest aboard for you. Your brother sent it.

Baranov That makes me happy. In that box will be some of my clothing and a few personal comforts I have been denied out here. (TWO MEN

START TO CROSS THE STAGE FROM D.L. TO U.R. THEY CARRY KEGS OF VODKA. BARANOV STOPS THEM) Vodka? (THEY NOD) Here, we'll give one of them a place of honor! (HE INDICATES THE SLEDGE. THE MEN LAUGH, AND THEY PUT ONE OF THE KEGS ON THE SLEDGE)

Man Where do you want the others, sir?

Baranov Makary! It is sinful to ask you to work on a day of celebration-- but only for a moment to store the precious spirits.

Makary Certainly, sir! (TO THE MAN) I'll be right back. (GOES OFF U.R.)

Baranov Richard will give you the key! Purtov, will you bring our kettle of Kvass and cranberries, and then guard the queen of our festival? (HE PATS THE KEG)

Purtov (BRANDISHING HIS AXE) I'll guard it with my life! (HE GOES OFF STAGE U.R.)

Baranov Galak! You know where the spouts are?

Galak Indeed I do!

Baranov I need not tell you how to tap a keg.

Galak I'm still too young to forget!

Baranov Good! (GALAK STARTS OFF U.L.) Oh, Galak, will you go to the tower and see if you can sight the "Saint Michael?" It would be a shame if Captain Izmailov missed the celebration.

Galak (LAUGHS) It would be worse than a shame. He would never get over it! (MAKARY RETURNS AND GOES OFF WITH THE MAN)

Baranov (LAUGHS) I don't think we have to worry. If there's vodka within a hundred miles, he'll smell it! (AT THIS POINT KUSKOV JUMPS DOWN FROM THE WAGON WITH A LETTER IN HIS HAND. HE IS COMPLETELY ABSORBED IN READING IT) Well, Captain Shields, come to my quarters and tell me the news from home! (THEY PASS KUSKOV) Kuskov--come with us.

We'll hear from home. Mr. Shields is going to--

Kuskov (WITHOUT LOOKING AT BARANOV, HE CRUMPLES UP THE LETTER AND THROWS IT TO THE GROUND. BITTERLY:) I've heard from home! (HE WALKS OFF U.R.)

Shields It must have been bad news.

Baranov (STARES AFTER HIM, CROSSES, PICKS UP THE LETTER, UNCRUMPLES IT AND READS) It's from his girl in Totemsk. (THERE IS A SHOUT OFF D.L. "THE ST. MICHAEL!" "CAPTAIN IZMAILOV IS COMING IN!" BARANOV LOOKS UP, CROSSES TOWARD D.L., STOPS AND LOOKS BACK AT SHIELDS) Galak was right! Captain Izmailov must have followed his nose! (PURTOV AND ANOTHER HUNTER RETURN CARRYING A BIG IRON KETTLE ON A POLE. THEY SET IT ON THE STAGE IN FRONT OF THE SLEDGE) Tap the keg! Mix it with Kvass and cranberries, and ring the bell! Tell the men to get their mugs! This day the manager pays for the drinks! Come, Captain Shields! We'll have a look at the dispatches from home! (THEY CROSS D.R. AND DISAPPEAR)

Purtov (SHOUTS) Get your mugs! The drink is free! (GALAK RETURNS, TAPS THE KEG. THE VODKA POURS INTO THE KETTLE. PURTOV STIRS IT AS THE MEN BEGIN TO GATHER WITH MUGS. THEY GATHER AROUND THE KETTLE, DIP IN, AND YELL "MORE VODKA!" PURTOV PUSHES ONE MAN OFF BALANCE AS HE TRIES TO STEAL PURE VODKA) You want to drown! Dip in the kettle! There's enough vodka there for you!

Galak (SHOUTS) Gerassim! Get your balalaika! We'll dance! (THIS IS FOLLOWED BY THE MEN CUTTINGS ANTICS, SWINGING EACH OTHER AROUND, SHOUTING AND SCREAMING. INTO ALL THIS COMES FATHER NECTAR, EXCITED AND WONDERING)

F. Nectar What is it? What is it? What is the confusion?

Galak (APPROACHES NECTAR) Confusion? There's no confusion here,
father! (HE HOLDS UP HIS MUG IN A FRIENDLY OFFER OF A DRINK)
We're celebrating! We got vodka--first time in five years! You
have some!

F. Nectar (BRUSHING IT ASIDE) Does everybody get this drink?

Galak Everybody! And they don't even mark it on the books!

F. Nectar Who pays for this waste?

Galak Waste? (HE LOOKS INTO HIS MUG) Waste?

F. Nectar (FIGHTING THE INCREASING NOISE) Who pays for this vodka?

Galak I don't know--Mr. Baranov, I guess, or the company. I don't know.
(DROWNED OUT BY THE CROWD AND VERY UPSET, FATHER NECTAR TURNS AND
WALKS OFF U.L. THE GIGGLING OF ALEUT WOMEN IS HEARD AS THE MEN
DRAG SOME OF THEM IN FROM U.R. A MAN ENTERS ON THE SHOULDERS OF
TWO OTHERS. HE CARRIES A BALALAIKA. THEY SET HIM UP ON THE WAGON.
SOME ONE LIFTS UP A BARREL FOR HIM TO SIT ON. ONE OF THE HUNTERS
CALLS OUT THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR A CHANGE, AND THE MEN GRAB THE
ALEUT GIRLS AND BEGIN TO DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF THE BALALAIKA.
AS THE DANCE PROGRESSES, IZMAILOV ENTERS D.L. WITH GALAK, AND
A COUPLE OF ALEUT MEN. THEY ARE GREETED BY THE MEN WHO ARE NOT
DANCING. GALAK IS ALL SMILES AS HE LOOKS FOR AN ALEUT GIRL.
RECOGNIZING A FAT ONE, HE GRABS HER AND ENTERS THE DANCE. THERE IS
MUCH LAUGHTER AT THIS. IZMAILOV CROSSES TO THE KEGS, PICKS UP A
MUG DROPPED BY ONE OF THE DANCERS, AND PROCEEDS TO DRINK. AT THIS
POINT BARANOV AND SHIELDS COME OUT FROM D.R. THEY ARE TALKING
AND LAUGHING. THEY CROSS TO THE KETTLE AND FILL THEIR MUGS, THEN

THEY CROSS TO IZMAILOV. BARANOV INTRODUCES SHIELDS TO IZMAILOV. THERE APPEARS TO BE GOOD HUMOR AMONG THEM. IZMAILOV HOLDS UP HIS MUG. THEY APPEAR TO BE MAKING A TOAST. IZMAILOV TALKS AND GESTURES, AND POINTS TOWARD THE SEA)

Baranov (CROSSES TO THE KETTLE AGAIN AS THE DANCE ENDS. HE JUMPS UP ON THE SLEDGE) Friends! (THE CROWD QUIETS) Friends, I propose a toast to Captain Shields who brought us new life! (THEY ALL CHEER)

Voice (FROM CROWD) To the reddest head that ever launched a ship! (ROAR OF LAUGHTER) To Egoryevich! (ANOTHER BIG CHEER)

Shields I can only say that you are jealous of my kingly crown! Which of you could serve as a port light in a storm? (LAUGHS AND JIBES FROM THE CROWD) Which of you could lead a marching army through the forest on a moonless night? (MORE LAUGHS)

Voice To Egoryevich! (CHEERS)

Voice I'll bet he's a hot head! (LOUD SQUEAL OF LAUGHTER FOLLOWED BY MORE LAUGHTER AND CHEERS)

Purtov A toast to Mr. Baranov for the free vodka! (CHEERS)

Voice A toast to the priests! (CHEERS AND GROWLS)

Baranov Where are the good fathers?

Voices "Praying for our souls." "In the barracks." "Gone back to Russia." (LAUGHS AND CHEERS)

Baranov It's too bad they are not able to enjoy our celebration.

Galak We will celebrate--and they can pray for us. (LAUGHS)

Baranov I haven't told you the good news! Shelekhov has shipped supplies to build a ship--our first ship--in Russian America! With this ship we push our colony to the country of the Kolosh, the richest sea

otter country in the world!

Voice A toast to Shelekhov! (CHEERS. "TO SHELEKHOV!")

Voice A toast to our new ship! (CHEERS)

Baranov Listen! I have more news! Nikolai Rezanov, Chamberlain of the Tzar, has sent us a new flag!

Voices "Let us raise it!" "Put it up!", Etc.

Baranov Wait! Wait until tomorrow. We'll dedicate the new village with a ceremony worthy of the gift!

Voice A toast to Nikolai Rezanov! (TOAST AND CHEERS. AT THIS POINT TALIN ENTERS FROM D.L.)

Izmailov Ho! Ho! What have we here?

Galak Shhh! It's the Russian Navy.

Izmailov A toast to the Russian Navy!

Crowd To the Russian Navy! (CHEERS)

Izmailov (TAKES A MUG, FILLS IT, TAKES IT TO TALIN) Here, young fellow. Drink up while you can. The time will come when the only vodka you'll drink will be in your sleep. (TALIN ACCEPTS THE MUG STIFFLY)

Baranov (NOTICING KUSKOV'S ABSENCE) Where is Ivan Kuskov? He should be here, too!

Voice He went to the barracks!

Baranov Morotin, will you get him? He'll miss the fun!

Morotin I'll get him! (HE GOES OFF U.R.)

Voice Who shall we toast?

Baranov I propose a toast to Captain Izmailov and the hunters who brought back sea otter skins! (BIG CHEERS "TO IZMAILOV!" "TO THE HUNTERS!")

- Izmailov (HOLDS HIS MUG UP AND BOWS, THEN HE WALKS OVER TO THE SLEDGE AND STANDS ON THE BOX) I have a treat for you! (CHEERS) Wait a minute! Let me tell you! The night before we went on the hunt, your good friend Giorgi Galak sang his new verses to "The Belle of Okhotsk." He should sing them for us tonight! (GALAK ATTEMPTS TO SNEAK AWAY, BUT TWO OF THE HUNTERS CAPTURE HIM AND CARRY HIM TO THE BOX)
- Voice Let's hear them Galak. They can't be any worse than the last ones! (GREAT ROAR OF LAUGHTER. GALAK DIPS UP ANOTHER MUG FULL OF DRINK. HE PROCEEDS TO DIRECT THE CROWD IN THE SINGING OF THE CHORUS. FOLLOWING THE FIRST CHORUS, GALAK COMES IN WITH HIS "NEW VERSES." FOLLOWING EACH SET OF TWO VERSES, THE CHORUS IS SUNG AGAIN BY THE CROWD. WHEN IT IS OVER, THERE IS MUCH LAUGHTER, BACK POUNDING, AND SCREAMING. BY THIS TIME SOME OF THE MEN AND ALEUT WOMEN ARE EMBRACING EACH OTHER. SOME HUNTERS DRAG ALEUT WOMEN OFF STAGE U.R. INTO THE DARKNESS)
- Voice Who shall we toast? Who shall we toast?
- Voice A toast to our dearest enemy, Grigor Konovalov! (AT THIS THE CROWD EXPRESSES DISSENTION. THE ONE WHO PROPOSED THE TOAST IS LIFTED BODILY OFF THE FLOOR, AND CARRIED OFF STAGE SCREAMING)
- Galak The only place Konovalov will ever get toasted is in Hell!
(LAUGHS)
(BY NOW THE MEN AND ALEUT WOMEN ARE OBVIOUSLY DRUNK)
- Voice Who shall we toast?
- Voice Egoryevich! The reddest head that ever launched a ship!
(LAUGHTER)

Morotin (RETURNS WITH KUSKOV) Here he is! (KUSKOV IS DEJECTED. HE LOOKS AROUND AND SEES THE KETTLE)

Baranov A toast to Ivan Kuskov!

Crowd (CHEERS) "To Kuskov!" (KUSKOV PICKS UP A MUG, WALKS TO THE KETTLE, DIPS IT IN, AND DRINKS IT ALL IN ONE GULP WHILE THE SURPRISED MEN YELL AND CHEER. BARANOV JUMPS DOWN FROM THE SLEDGE AND CROSSES TO HIM. KUSKOV DIPS IN THE KETTLE AGAIN)

Baranov That's wicked brew, Ivan. Are you sure you want--

Kuskov Mr. Baranov!

Baranov (PUTS HIS HAND ON IVAN'S SHOULDER) Ivan, my name is Alexander.

Kuskov (LOOKS AT HIM) Alexander, today I'm free from women! (HE DRINKS HIS MUG EMPTY, COUGHS AND SHIVERS) My girl said she'd wait five years! (HE LAUGHS CYNICALLY) She didn't even wait three months! (HE DIPS HIS MUG IN THE KETTLE AGAIN) So now, I'm free from women!

Baranov Wait, Ivan! Drink it slow, or you'll be free from yourself, too.

Kuskov (TAKING ANOTHER DRINK) Mr. Baranov. --Alexander. (HE BELCHES AND COUGHS) Alexander! No man is free unless he's free from women!

Crowd (CHEERS. "THAT'S RIGHT, IVAN!")

Kuskov There is no truth in them. (FINISHES HIS MUG AND DIPS IN THE KETTLE AGAIN BARANOV, ALARMED, TAKES HOLD OF HIS ARM AS HE RAISES IT TO DRINK. FOR A LONG MOMENT THEY STAND STARING AT EACH OTHER, THEN BARANOV DROPS HIS HAND. KUSKOV LAUGHS AND TURNS TO THE CROWD) A toast to Alexander--a man whose word you can trust. (HE DRINKS AND THE CROWD CHEERS AGAIN "TO ALEXANDER!" BY THIS TIME KUSKOV IS REALLY WARMED UP. IZMAILOV BEGINS TO TALK TO THE FAT ALEUT WOMAN WHO DANCED WITH GALAK. SOME OF THE MEN STAGGER AFTER SOME OF THE ALEUT GIRLS WHO ARE WITH OTHER MEN. THE MEN WITH THE GIRLS PUSH

THE INTRUDERS AWAY AND DRAG THE WOMEN OFF STAGE)

Galak (TURNS AND SEES IZMAILOV. HE GROSSES TO HIM AND TAPS HIM ON THE SHOULDER) Stepan! How many women you need?

Izmailov You want this woman?

Galak (NODS) Mmm.

Izmailov (STRAIGHTENS UP, LOOKS HARD AT GALAK) Then stay with her, Georgi!
(HE PUSHES GALAK WHO FALLS INTO THE LAP OF THE ALEUT WOMAN WHO SHRIEKS AND GIGGLES. GALAK RISES AND STARTS TO HIT IZMAILOV AS THE CROWD GATHERS AROUND AND CHEERS AND EGGS THEM ON. IZMAILOV DUCKS AND SWINGS AT GALAK AND MISSES. KUSKOV SEES THEM AND STAGGERS BETWEEN THEM HOLDING HIS MUG OVER HIS HEAD)

Kuskov Stop! (BARANOV AND SHIELDS LAUGH AND CROSS TOWARD THEM) You should not fight! (STILL HOLDING HIS MUG AS THOUGH IT WERE A FLAG) You are free men! Free men have no need of women! (HOLDING HIS MUG HIGH AND STARING UP AT THE SKY AS THOUGH HE HAD MADE A GREAT PRONOUNCEMENT TO HEAVEN, HIS EYES BLUR AND HE COLLAPSES TO THE CHEERS OF THE REMAINING HUNTERS. GALAK AND IZMAILOV RESUME THEIR FIGHT. BARANOV AND SHIELDS PICK KUSKOV UP AND CARRY HIM OFF D.R. AS THE OTHERS ON THE STAGE GET MIXED UP IN THE FIGHT, SCREAM, POUND EACH OTHER, AND YELL AS THE LIGHTS DIM AND THE CURTAIN FALLS)

Scene 2

(St. Paul Square, the next morning)

(AS THE SCENE OPENS, FATHER NECTAR IS HEARD CHANTING BEFORE THE CURTAIN RISES. THE CURTAIN RISES REVEALING ABOUT FIVE RUSSIAN MEN INCLUDING BARANOV, PURTOV, THE TWO SAILORS AND MIDSHIPMAN TALIN, WHO IS CLOSEST TO THE ALTAR, ATTENDING THE FIRST CHURCH SERVICE HELD IN THE COLONY. THERE ARE A FEW GAWKING CHILDREN AND ALEUT MEN STANDING AND SITTING IN THE BACKGROUND.

OCCASIONALLY ANOTHER RUSSIAN ENTERS FROM U.R. AND STANDS IN THE REAR OF THE GROUP. FOLLOWING THE CHANT THERE IS AN "AMEN" ECHOED BY THE "AMENS" OF THE OTHER THREE PRIESTS STANDING NEAR THE ALTAR. FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THIS PORTION OF THE SERVICE FATHER NECTAR STEPS FORWARD AND SPEAKS)

F. Nectar

Many weeks ago when the Archimandrite Joseph told us we would become the first to serve our Lord in the colony, we gave thanks that such a privilege was granted us. Little did we realize the great need that existed here for God's work, not only among the native folk, but among the men of our own country who find it in their hearts to desecrate the sabbath eve with drunkenness and carryings on with aleut women. (AT THIS POINT KUSKOV ENTERS FROM D.L. HIS HEAD IS SOAKING WET AND HE LOOKS MISERABLE. HE CROSSES D.S. TO THE REAR OF THE GROUP AND STANDS. HIS ENTRANCE IS ACCOMPANIED BY TITERS OF THE CHILDREN AND THE MUFFLED LAUGHTER OF THE RUSSIAN MEN AND ALEUTS. DURING KUSKOV'S ENTRANCE, FATHER NECTAR FORGETS TO SPEAK) Last night we learned that many of you live out of wedlock with the Aleut women and that you have brought into this world children of sin. We can only conclude that such

disregard for God's law is invited by your leader. (HERE THERE IS A SLIGHT STIR AND SEVERAL LOOK AT BARANOV WHO REMAINS SILENT) It seems this behavior is not merely condoned; it is encouraged! It is our prayer on this first sabbath that God will touch your hearts from the lowest to the highest, and turn you away from sin. (CHANTS AGAIN, AND DELIVERS A PRAYER OF BLESSING. THIS FINISHES THE SERVICE. WHEN IT IS OVER, THE PRIESTS GATHER UP THE ALTAR DRAPING, AND THEIR PRAYER BOOKS, AND BIBLES, AND THE TWO LARGE CANDLE HOLDERS, AND START TO WALK OFF U.R. THE MEN WANDER OFF OR SIT ON THE KEGS AND TALK)

Baranov (CROSSES AND STOPS FATHER NECTAR WHO IS THE LAST TO START WALKING AWAY) Father Nectar, it is good that you have come. There is need of what you can bring to the Aleuts and the children of the hunters, but it is not good that you demand quarters when we have none. It is not good when you criticize my men for living with Aleut women.

A. Nectar Do you think it is right in the eyes of the Church?

Baranov I think it is right in the eyes of God!

F. Nectar You think God sanctions people living in sin?

Baranov They are not living in sin!

F. Nectar They're not married.

Baranov Maybe not by our laws. But in their own way, they are married. A man here can not just take up with any woman. He must ask the father's permission. He must establish a home, and care for the girl. He can not leave her for another unless there is good cause that will satisfy her father. If he leaves her, he must pay the

father.

- F. Nectar And who pays for the sin?
- Baranov (GETTING ANGRY) What sin?
- F. Nectar The begetting of children.
- Baranov Since when has that become a sin? You don't seem to understand.
The Aleut law contains no such sin. To the Aleut woman it is not
a sin to have a child. It is a fulfillment of the purpose for
which she was born! And the child belongs to her.
- F. Nectar So you propose to live according to the laws of the Aleut?
- Baranov When it is necessary, yes! By allowing my men to live with the
Aleut women, I have cut down disease and prostitution, and I have
given hope and life to some of the men who came here-- condemned
prisoners, who chose this colony rather than chains and death
in a Siberian prison!
- F. Nectar One day, Mr. Baranov, I fear you'll regret this! (HE WALKS OFF.
TALIN WALKS OFF WITH HIM)
- Shields (WHO HAS ENTERED FROM D.R.) What's the old boy so upset about?
- Baranov I don't know. He has taken a dislike to me since the moment he
arrived.
- Kuskov (CROSSES TO BARANOV) I'm sorry I didn't warn you!
- Baranov (TURNS AND LOOKS AT KUSKOV) Ivan! (LAUGHING) I thought we had
lost you!
- Shields How did you get your head so wet?
- Kuskov (SOBERLY) I put it in the sea to cool it off! (BARANOV, SHIELDS,
AND THE OTHERS WHO HAVE GATHERED AROUND LAUGH AT KUSKOV'S MISERY)
- Shields The first drink must be tasted carefully, Ivan. After that you must
proceed with caution.

Baranov You downed four with enough kick to stagger Izmailov.

Kuskov It's the first time I've ever been drunk. I think it will be the last.

Shields Today you are a man!

Kuskov I don't feel like it! (THEY LAUGH AGAIN) Mr. Baranov...

Baranov Alexander. Remember?

Kuskov Alexander, I am sorry I didn't warn you.

Baranov About what, Ivan?

Kuskov About the priests. Last night, before you sent Morotin to the barracks to get me, the priests asked me all kinds of questions about you. They were upset about the celebration last night, and about the hunters and the Aleut women. They were terribly upset about being put in the barracks, too.

Baranov They are used to being provided for and cared for. It is hard for them to realize that they will have to shoulder the burden of existence here like everyone else.

Kuskov One of them seemed different. He said, "Why don't we get to know Mr. Baranov before we condemn him?"

Baranov Which one was that?

Kuskov His name was Father Herman.

Baranov Oh, yes. He is the teacher -- the small one.

Kuskov Yes.

Baranov There seems to be a bit of God in him.

Kuskov He said, "If Mr. Baranov is a man of sin, he will need to be helped-- not condemned."

Baranov And what did the others say?

Kuskov They complained mostly.

Baranov Do you think I'm a man of sin, Ivan?

Kuskov I suppose so. Most of us are.

Baranov (LAUGHS) Don't let it bother you, Ivan; and, by the way, you shouldn't let that letter bother you, either!

Kuskov Did you see the letter? I looked for it this morning, and ---

Baranov Yes, I have it. Forgive me, Ivan. When you threw it down last night I picked it up and read it.

Kuskov That's all right. I don't care. I'm glad it's over.

Baranov Five years was a long time to ask her to wait.

Kuskov I know.

Baranov In five years both of you would have changed and when you got back you might discover you made a mistake in waiting all those years.

Kuskov (NODS)

Shields (SMILING) Besides---Look at you now. (IMITATES KUSKOV'S DRINKING GESTURE OF HOLDING A GLASS OVER HIS HEAD) You're a free man!

 (LAUGHS)

Kuskov (FORCES A SMILE) Yes--- but I don't know what I'm free for.

Baranov Now that you're free I know an Aleut princess who would consider you a good catch. (SHIELDS AND BARANOV LAUGH AT THIS. THEY ARE INTERRUPTED AT THIS POINT BY FATHER HERMAN WHO ENTERS FROM U.R. WITH A NUMBER OF ALEUT CHILDREN AND CHILDREN OF THE HUNTERS TAGGING AFTER HIM. HE CARRIES IN HIS HAND A METAL BOX. HE CROSSES TO BARANOV)

F. Herman Good morning, Mr. Baranov. I'm Father Herman.

Baranov Good morning, Father. I see you have gathered the lambs already.

- F. Herman Yes, I told them I was going to give them some wonderful sweet meats--some for here (POINTS TO HIS HEAD) and some for here. (POINTS TO HIS STOMACH. OPENS BOX) I brought these from Balaam Monastery for the children. Even the Lord fed the wayward and the needy. Will you have one?
- Baranov (AMUSED) Yes! (TAKES ONE) Thank you. (FATHER HERMAN PASSES THE BOX TO KUSKOV, SHIELDS, AND A COUPLE OF THE OTHER MEN.) This looks like the sweet meat boxes in the shops at home.
- F. Herman Yes, my parents gave it to me when I was 16. They were shop keepers. When I left home to enter the monastery, Troitza Sergief of Pustin, they filled it with food and gave it to me. I've given many children sweet meats from it. (HE BOYS AND WALKS OFF U.L. TALKING WITH THE CHILDREN. THE MEN STARE AFTER HIM)
- Baranov Yes, there seems to be a bit of God in him. (THEY MUNCH THE SWEET MEATS) These sweet meats remind me of the comforts of home.
- Shields- Yes, I don't imagine you've had many out here.
- Baranov I've longed to put on some civilized clothing. My brother tells me in his dispatch that he has sent me my vest and long coat, ruffles and pantaloons. Would you think it out of place if I wore them when we raise the flag and dedicate St. Paul today?
- Kuskov No! It would make us all feel elegant!
- Baranov (SENTIMENTALLY) It is a softness in me, perhaps. The last time I wore them was in a celebration in Irkutsk when Count Ostermann called me "eminent" -- (LOOKS AROUND IN EMBARRASSMENT) Well, I seem to have forgotten where I am.
- Purtov Put them on, Alexander! Put them on!

Baranov They are in my chest aboard ship. Captain Shields, do you think it could be unloaded?

Shields I'm sure it could. I'll have Rodionov get to it at once!

Baranov Will you have it brought to my house? (STARTS TO CROSS D.R.)

Shields Yes. (HE STARTS TO CROSS OFF D.L.)

Baranov I must go and prepare some appropriate words for this occasion. (HE TURNS) Oh, Captain Shields, would you kindly ask Rodionov to bring the manifest? I want to go over the ship building supplies Mr. Shelekhov wrote to me about.

Shields (HE STOPS ABRUPTLY) Sir, I meant to tell you last night-- the manifest shows no ship building supplies.

Baranov (STUNNED, HE TURNS) What? (CROSSES TO SHIELDS) Did you say none?

Shields The only ship supplies aboard are for repairing the "God's Friend" and the "Eagle."

Baranov What are they?

Shields A few barrels of tar, a little oakum, and some used rigging.

Baranov (WITH RISING ANGER) What about iron and brass?

Shields A little --- not enough for a ship.

Baranov (IN A RAGE) I don't believe it! Why would Shelekhov take two pages to tell me about it? Who was in charge of the loading at Okhotsk?

Shields ~~Rodionov~~, but he---

Baranov Where is he?

Shields He's at the ship. (SEVERAL OF THE MEN GATHER AROUND, EXPECTING TROUBLE. TALIN ENTERS FROM D.L. GALAK ENTERS FROM U.R.)

Baranov (SCREAMS) By God, I'll find those supplies or find out why they

are not aboard! (THE PRIESTS ENTER, ATTRACTED BY BARANOV'S SHOUTING) Tell him to bring the manifest -- I want to see him!
(HE TURNS AND WALKS OFF D.R.)

Shields (WALKS OFF D.L.) All right!

Talin What right does Baranov have to question the manifest?

Kuskov (DEFENDS BARANOV) He is the manager of the colony. The supplies are for the service of the colony!

Talin He acts like he is the law itself.

Kuskov He is!

Talin (LAUGHS DERISIVELY) He may act differently one day.

Kuskov What do you mean?

Talin The government owns this colony--not the merchants. A mere trader doesn't speak for St. Petersburg.

Kuskov Mr. Baranov does!

Talin (WITH AN AIR OF ONE HOLDING A SECRET) Ha! (POINTS TO HIMSELF) This uniform speaks for the government, (STARTS TO WALK OFF D.L.) and trader Baranov had better be careful not to order this uniform around!

F. Nectar Mr. Talin--- (TALIN TURNS AND FATHER NECTAR CROSSES TO HIM. THEY WALK OFF D.L. TALKING, AS RODIONOV AND SHIELDS ENTER WITH THEIR HEADS TOGETHER OVER THE MANIFEST)

Rodionov I checked every load, Captain, and those are the only ship supplies that were sent.

Shields Well, show it to Baranov. He's in his house. (RODIONOV STARTS TO CROSS D.R.) Wait! I forgot to tell you, Baranov wants his chest unloaded as soon as possible. (RODIONOV TURNS - AN AGONIZED

EXPRESSION COMES OVER HIS FACE)

Rodionov Captain, it's -- it's not aboard.

Shields You mean you unloaded it?

Rodionov I mean--it has disappeared.

Shields Disappeared! How could it? It was aboard! I saw it.

Baranov (FROM OFF STAGE) Bring that manifest! (RICHARD ENTERS FROM D.R. AND CROSSES TO RODIONOV)

Richard Mr. Baranov want to see you right away!

Rodionov (THROWS UP HIS HANDS AND CROSSES OFF D.R.)

Galak (SHOUTS AFTER HIM) Rodionov! Baranov is a bear when he's angry. Oh-h! I wouldn't go in there. (RODIONOV LOOKS AS THOUGH HE IS GOING TO THE GALLOWS) Do you want me to make up a verse for your grave stone? (LAUGHS) (FATHER AFANASSI AND MAKAR HURRY OVER TO SHIELDS)

Makar What is all this trouble about, Captain Shields?

Shields Baranov received a dispatch from Shelekhov telling him to build a ship. He said the supplies for it were on the "Eagle." But they are not there.

Makar Certainly, they must be there.

Shields I'm afraid not!

Afanassi Our dear friend, Grigor Shelekhov would not say there were supplies if there were none.

Makar They are probably on the ship, just over-looked!

Shields We know everything that was loaded. The supplies were never sent. (FROM BARANOV'S HOUSE AN OUTBURST IS HEARD)

Baranov (SCREAMS) You idiot! You damned idiot! How could you lose a

chest as big as two men? Get out! Get out of my house!

Rodionov (HURRIES ON STAGE LOOKING BACK IN ANGER) He's as mad as the son of Catherine!

Galak You have to be a little bit mad to come here, a little more mad to stay here, and very mad to be manager here! (LAUGHS)

Baranov (SHOUTS FROM HIS HOUSE) Ivan!

Galak (LAUGHS) You're next! (DEMONSTRATES THE CUTTING OF HIS THROAT)

Kuskov Yes, sir! (STARTS TOWARD D.R.)

Baranov (LOUDER) Ivan!

Kuskov I'm coming, sir!

Makar Someone should stop his insane raving!

Kuskov (TURNS AND SPEAKS COLDLY) Would you like to try, Father?

Makar It is not the privilege of a priest to use force. (KUSKOV LEAVES)

Shields (TURNS TO RODIONOV) Come, we'll take another look for Baranov's chest.

Rodionov It's useless, Captain. It's been removed from the ship.

Shields Then it was taken off at Unalaska.

Rodionov Yes.

Shields How did it happen? You were in charge?

Rodionov Yes, Sir, but I -- I left the ship for about three hours during the unloading.

Shields Who took charge while you were gone?

Rodionov Midshipman Talin.

Shields Talin had no instructions on the loading!

Rodionov I know it,--but--

Shields Why did you leave the ship?

Rodionov I have no excuse, sir.

Shields You must have a reason.

Rodionov (RELUCTANTLY) Well, I--was doing a little trading. (GALAK CHUCKLES)

Shields Trading what?

Rodionov (EMBARRASSED) I-- (LOOKS AROUND AT THE OTHERS WHO BEGIN TO SMILE AND CHUCKLE. GALAK BEGINS TO SING A VERSE FROM "THE BELLE OF OKHOTSK," SUBSTITUTING "UNALASKA" FOR "OKHOTSK" AS THE MEN BEGIN TO POKE FUN AT RODIONOV WITH EXPRESSIONS LIKE "DID SHE HAVE A BONE IN HER LIP, RODIONOV?" "DID SHE WEAR A RIBBON IN HER HAIR?" "WHAT WAS HER NAME?" "HOW MUCH DID YOU TRADE, RODIONOV?")

Afanassi This is disgusting! (HE TURNS TO THE OTHER PRIESTS) Let us not stay here and be subjected to this sinful talk! (THEY LEAVE)

Shields.. You are an idiot! We may all pay for your carelessness. (BARANOV AND KUSKOV COME OUT OF THE HOUSE AND CROSS U.C. RICHARD FOLLOWS THEM CARRYING THE NEW FLAG)

Baranov (SHOUTS) Ring the bell, Igor! (PURTOV, WHO IS NEAR THE FLAG POLE, CROSSES AND BEGINS TO RING THE BELL. BARANOV CLIMBS UPON THE SLEDGE) Ivan! Make ready to lower the old flag and raise the new! (KUSKOV CROSSES TO THE FLAG POLE AS MORE HUNTERS AND ALEUTS GATHER IN THE SQUARE. OLD CHIEF PAHNYAK COMES IN FROM D.L. AND STANDS BELOW THE CROWD D.C. AS BARANOV SPEAKS) His Excellency, Nikolai Rezanov, High Chamberlain of the Court of Catherine, and Supreme Commander of the Russian American Colonies, has given us a new flag for our village. But, I think he would be disappointed today if he saw this flag raised above a village only half finished,

and a colony that has not built one new settlement in a whole year!

(MURMURS OF AGREEMENT ARE HEARD FROM SOME OF THE MEN)

Paul We can't build without supplies!

Baranov Exactly! But I intend to change that!

Galak Does Shelekhov know that? (LAUGHS)

Baranov Not yet! But when our own ship sails into Okhotsk harbor, he'll know it! (MURMURS OF "OUR OWN SHIP?" "WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?", ETC. ARE HEARD) Last night I told you Shelekhov had sent us supplies to build a ship. Today I discovered there are no supplies! But, I have made up my mind---that we'll build that ship anyhow, if we have to cut our planks with a cutlass! (THERE ARE LOUD MURMURS OF APPROVAL) With this ship, we can sail home as often as we want to, and bring back what we need to make this colony a fit place to live in! (THERE ARE SPORADIC CHEERS FROM SEVERAL OF THE MEN) Tomorrow Captain Shields and I will go to the mainland, and explore for the right timber and the right spot to build her in! And this winter our axes will ring in the first shipyard in Russian America! (EVERYONE CHEERS) Now, I have more news for you. (THE MEN GET QUIET) Tomorrow we'll start to gather the biggest bidarka fleet in the history of our colony. We will assemble one thousand Aleut boats and sail for Sitka -- the richest sea otter grounds in the world. (TURNS TO KUSKOV) Ivan!

Kuskov Sir?

Baranov You will take charge of the expedition, and try to achieve a treaty with the Kolosh!

Kuskov (NODS)

- Baranov Captain Izmailov and Mr. Talin will guard the fleet in the "God's Friend." At Sitka we'll build a new station! Then we can lift up our heads and take pride in this flag we shall raise today!
- (A GREAT CHEER IS HEARD. DURING THE CHEER, OLD CHIEF PAHNYAK CROSSES BELOW AND LEFT OF BARANOV AS FATHER HERMAN AND THE CHILDREN ENTER U.L. AND CROSS D.R. TO WATCH. CHIEF PAHNYAK RAISES HIS HAND. THE CROWD BECOMES SILENT)
- Pahnyak You want my people hunt at Sitka--land of evil Kolosh. Long way from here. Be gone many days. Maybe die. Maybe killed by Kolosh. My people-- maybe not want to go.
- Baranov Old father, the Russian ship will protect your people from the Kolosh. Baranov will not force your people to hunt! The great Empress in St. Petersburg would not force you to hunt. She loves you as her people. She hopes you will want to hunt for her. She wants all of you to be paid well for your work.
- Pahnyak My people ask when manager of Russians pay for last hunt. They ask me when (THERE IS GENERAL LAUGHTER AT THIS)
- Baranov Old father, you may tell your hunters that tomorrow when they see the sun, they may come to the Russian store and they will be paid six yards of denim, four yards of linen, and ten pounds of iron.
- (THIS CAUSES EXCITEMENT AMONG THE RUSSIANS AS WELL AS THE ALEUTS, SINCE IRON IS SCARCE AND IRON IS NEEDED TO BUILD A SHIP)
- Pahnyak (SMILES) I tell my people you keep promise. You pay big. They maybe hunt for Baranov!
- Baranov Wise father, this will bring joy to our Empress and reward to your people. (HE REACHES DOWN AND TAKES THE NEW FLAG FROM RICHARD)
- Now, I want you to see our new flag! (HE UNFOLDS IT AND HOLDS IT

UP. THE MEN EXCLAIM OVER ITS BEAUTY) Rezanov has said "One day the Russian flag will fly over our villages from the Bering Sea to California, and all stations will be under one great company."

Galak Ours, or Konovalov's? (LAUGHS)

Baranov A new company, whose authority will have to be obeyed by everyone!
(GIVES THE FLAG TO RICHARD WHO CARRIES IT TO THE FLAG POLE.

BARANOV SEES FATHER HERMAN) Father Herman! Before we raise our flag, will you lead us in a prayer of dedication?

Herman (LIFTS HIS HANDS IN BLESSING) Lord and Master of us all, we ask that Thou will look upon us and find it in Thy heart to forgive us our sins. Bless us in what we do for Thy kingdom in America. Bless the new village and those who built it. We ask Thy blessing, too, upon Nikolai Rezanov who has sent to us this beautiful flag! May it wave throughout this land wherever Thy will is done. Amen

Baranov Haul down the colors! (KUSKOV HAULS DOWN THE OLD COLORS, AND HAULS UP THE NEW AS THE CROWD CHEERS AND THE CURTAIN CLOSES)

Scene 3

(midnight the same day)

(THE SQUARE IS DIMLY LIGHTED BY THE MOON. VOICES ARE HEARD OFF STAGE LEFT SINGING "THE BELLE OF OKHOTSK." IN A MOMENT BARANOV, SHIELDS, KUSKOV AND PURTOV STAGGER INTO THE SQUARE. THEY ARE ALL DRUNK. THEY FINISH THE SONG WITH LAUGHTER AND BACK SLAPPING)

Baranov Captain Shields--your hospitality was most gracious!

Shields Thank you! I thank you!

Purtov (LAUGHS HEARTILY)

Kuskov We are all free men!

Baranov There is just one thing--

Shields One thing?

Baranov One thing. Your English Rum--ahhh--(HE SHAKES HIS HEAD) It is too heavy--here! (HE POINTS TO HIS HEAD) A little bit-- and the evening is over! Vodka! That's the drink! -- Soft and gentle, like the caress of a young maiden. But a little bit of rum! (SHAKES HIS HEAD AGAIN) Like being kicked by a horse!

Shields Two bottles, sir, is not a little bit of rum! (A MAN'S LAUGHTER IS HEARD OFF U.R. FOLLOWED BY THE SQUEALS AND LAUGHTER OF AN ALEUT GIRL)

Kuskov (TURNING IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SOUND) Shh! The priests will hear you!

Purtov (LAUGHS)

Baranov The poor fathers. What will we do with them?

Kuskov (LIFTING HIS HEAD) Make them free men!

Baranov Free! That's the trouble! They think they're free of all

responsibility out here! I fear we'll have trouble with them!

Kuskov Sir, didn't we ask Shelekhov to send us a priest?

Baranov One! I asked for one, and he sends me four! Why? (THEY ALL SHAKE THEIR HEADS)

Kuskov (STUDIOUSLY) I don't know.

Baranov That's not all! Shelekhov says, "I have sent you supplies to build a ship." I look. No supplies! Why? (THEY ALL SHAKE THEIR HEADS)

Kuskov I don't know.

Baranov I'll tell you! It's the government! The government takes a peek at all our letters. When they read that Shelekhov is sending priests, they will say he's a godly man -- saving the souls of the savages! They will say Shelekhov's building an Empire! And they will grant him special favors! That's why!

Shields I should say --- that is most intelligent!

Baranov Yes, but what about us?

Kuskov I don't know!

Baranov Furs! Just as long as we get furs, everything will be all right!

Kuskov All right!

Purtov (LAUGHS)

Baranov (WANDERS OUT IN THE CENTER OF THE SQUARE, LOOKS UP TOWARD THE SKY D.L. AND SHOUTS) I'll put your priests to work, Grigor! But they'll have to carry their own weight. And if there be a saint among them, maybe a soul will be saved. (LAUGHS) Maybe even my own! (HE HANGS HIS HEAD. THE OTHERS WATCH IN STUPID FASCINATION. AS THEY CROSS DOWN TO HIM, BARANOV LAUGHS TO HIMSELF. SUDDENLY

ALMOST VEHEMENTLY, HE SHOUTS AGAIN) I'll build your ship, too!

If I have to pull the trees up with my hands, and tie them together with otter skins! (HE STAGGERS, AND IS ABOUT TO FALL. THE OTHERS START TO CATCH HIM. HE PUSHES THEM AWAY)

Shields (SITTING DOWN) We may not find the timber to build a ship!

Baranov We'll find it! (TURNS) There's a beautiful place on the Kenai where the timber is tall and thick, and there's a beautiful bay where the ship will be born. The Bay of Resurrection!

Shields I don't like to disagree with you, but I think it would be cheaper for Shelekhov to build his ship in Russia. I think---

Baranov You think I am a fool to build a ship! Maybe I am, but I have to build it, and you have to help me! My men will learn from you! With these ships, we'll conquer this country! We'll plant our people from the Bering Sea to Spanish California! Maybe even the Sandwich Islands!

Shields (WITH A SHOW OF BELLIGERENCE) You can't build a ship without iron! You need iron! And you know what you did today? You promised to give the Aleuts all the iron you need for the ship.

Baranov Captain Shields, you don't understand! A debt had to be paid first! They won't destroy the iron! When the time comes, I will ask the Aleuts to loan us all the iron they can spare. And I will promise to pay them back more than I borrowed, and they will agree.

Shields (THROWS UP HIS ARMS AND STANDS) Never in all my days of sailing have I struck a reef the likes of you, sir! With your permission I'll return to the ship! I suddenly have need for sleep! (HE TURNS AND WALKS OFF D.L.)

Baranov Sleep? (CONTEMPLATES) Yes, we must sleep! Tomorrow we'll put a

new star in the crown of Russia! (HE MOTIONS TO IGOR AND IVAN)
Igor! Ivan! (THEY CROSS TO HIM. HE PUTS HIS ARMS OVER THEIR
SHOULDERS, AND STARTS SINGING "THE BELLE OF OKHOTSK." THEY JOIN IN
AND STAGGER TOWARD BARANOV'S HOUSE AS THE LIGHTS DIM AND THE CUR-
TAIN FALLS)

Scene 4

(the Spring of 1793)

(THE SCENE IS SET AT RESURRECTION BAY. A SHIP IS BEING BUILT. AGAINST A SKY BACKGROUND U.C. IS THE BOW SECTION OF THE SHIP SUPPORTED BY TIMBERS ON THE RIGHT AND LEFT SIDES OF THE HULL. FROM THE DECK UP, THERE ARE THREE MASTS AND SOME BRACING VISIBLE. AGAINST THE BOW IS A LADDER. LEFT STAGE IS MASKED BY FOLIAGE AND TREE TRUNKS. AT R.C. THERE IS A LOG SHACK -- BARANOV'S QUARTERS. D.R. IS A SAW HORSE AND A TYPE OF "SWEDE SAW." D.L. IS A FORGE, ANVIL, AND BLACKSMITH TOOLS. ROUGH HEWN LUMBER AND A FEW LOGS HERE AND THERE COMPLETE THE SET.

A LIGHT SNOW IS FALLING, AND THE SOUNDS OF CHOPPING TREES AND SHOUTS OF MEN ARE HEARD IN THE DISTANCE. SHIELDS AND GALAK ARE ON THE DECK OF THE SHIP. MOROTIN IS SITTING AT A SMALL FORGE. D.R. PUMPING ON A BELLOWS WITH ONE HAND AND HOLDING A PIECE OF IRON IN TONGS WITH THE OTHER HAND. AS THE CURTAIN OPENS PURTOV AND MOLAKAR ENTER FROM U.R. CARRYING A ROUGH HEWN TIMBER ABOUT 8 FEET LONG AND SIX INCHES SQUARE. THEY APPROACH THE SHIP AND STAND THE TIMBER ON END. PURTOV GOES TO THE LADDER LEANING AGAINST THE BOW, CLIMBS HALF WAY UP, AND REACHES DOWN TO HELP MOLAKAR LIFT THE TIMBER UP TO THE DECK. GALAK GRABS THE TIMBER.

Purtov Pull up, Georgi!

Galak Push! I'm not as young as you, Igor!

Shields (PULLING) Steady! (THEY GET IT TO THE TOP, PUT IT IN PLACE, AND IN DOING SO, IT IS LOWERED BEHIND THE SET AND OUT OF SIGHT.

MOROTIN AT THIS POINT HAMMERS AT A LARGE NAIL ON THE ANVIL AND

THEN DIPS IT IN A POT OF WATER) All right, Morotin-- more nails!

Morotin (SHAKES HIS HEAD) Four is all I have!

Shields (EXPLODING) Four! By God--I can't build a ship without nails! Yesterday 16 nails! This morning 8! This afternoon 4! Tomorrow--none! I'm getting sick of trying to build a ship without iron! Scraps! All we get are rotten scraps! We need new iron! (THROWS DOWN HIS SLEDGE) I'll have no more of it! We're out of something all the time! Last week it was food! No bread! No meat! Nothing but stinking, rotten fish! All because our hunters are afraid of Konovalov!

Galak Would you like to go over there (HE POINTS D.R.) and hunt in Konovalov's back yard?

Shields If I ran this company, I would put Konovalov in chains for what he has done to us! He steals our hostages! He steals our food, shoots our men, and kills the Indians! One day the Indians will have enough. They will rise up and destroy all the Russians. The hunters say they're getting ready for war right now. While Baranov builds a ship!

Baranov (ENTERS FROM U.R. AND OVERHEARS PART OF SHIELDS' TIRADE) What is the matter, James?

Shields (TURNING QUICKLY) You know very well what is the matter! It's everything! Today it's nails! Do you know how many we have? Four!

Baranov Our hunting party has located an old wreck buried on the shore of Montague Island. They are bringing the iron from it now.

Shields (LAUGHS SCORNFULLY) More rotten iron! I'm through with trying to

work with rotten iron, rotten tools, and rotten food!

Baranov (LOOKS LONG AT HIM) You refuse to go on with the ship?

Shields Yes! I was not sent here to build a ship out of nothing!

Shelekhov states clearly in his dispatch to you that I am to be an advisor, not a laborer. And I advise that we stop this foolishness until we have the supplies we need to build a ship, not a coffin! (THE MEN ANTICIPATE TROUBLE)

Baranov James, I would hate to have to order you to---

Shields You can't order me! You haven't the right!

Baranov I must disagree with you, James. I have the right!

Shields Shelekhov gave you the right to keep me as a navigator and advisor until Spring! And Spring is here! And I intend to sail for Russia within a month!

Baranov You will serve the colony as long as I need you, James, and you will do what has to be done according to your capacities.

Shields (LAUGHS DERISIVELY) Is that an order?

Baranov Yes!

Shields By whose authority?

Baranov The authority of law---the commander of Okhotsk.

Shields (SHOCKED, BUT BELIEVING BARANOV IS BLUFFING) Prove it!

Baranov I was hoping I wouldn't have to. (HE PULLS OUT A FOLDED PAPER FROM UNDER HIS SHIRT) Here's your proof, James.

Shields (SCRAMBLES DOWN THE LADDER, TAKES THE PAPER OUT OF BARANOV'S HAND AND READS. HE SUDDENLY BECOMES LIVID WITH ANGER, THROWS THE PAPER ON THE GROUND AND LUNGES FOR BARANOV'S THROAT) Damn you! You've been holding this to force me to work! You can put me in chains,

but I won't build your ship! (THEY GO DOWN IN A HEAP, ROLLING AND KICKING. AT THIS MOMENT A SHOUTING IS HEARD OFF U.L.

"INDIANS! INDIANS!" THE MEN ARE ALARMED. BARANOV AND SHIELDS STOP THEIR FIGHTING. GALAK SCRAMBLES DOWN THE LADDER. MOROTIN GRABS HIS TOOLS FROM THE FORGE. SHIELDS RUNS UP THE LADDER TO GET HIS AXE)

Baranov (SHOUTS U.R.) Richard! Ring the alarm! (HE TURNS BACK TO THE OTHER MEN) They may be friendly, but we can't take a chance. (THE SOUND OF A BELL IS HEARD OFF U.R. RINGING STEADILY, FOLLOWED BY THE SHOUTS OF MEN OFF STAGE) James! You and Galak pull out one of the guns. Igor, get the pistols! Tell Richard to bring the glass! It's in the small chest! (PURTOV DASHES OFF U.R. AS OTHER MEN BEGIN TO GATHER AROUND BARANOV. SOME CARRY RIFLES, OTHERS CUTLASSES. RICHARD ENTERS FROM U.R. CARRYING A TELESCOPE. HE GIVES IT TO BARANOV) Morotin! Molakar! Bring some of our trade goods from the tool shed! Hurry! (LOOKS THROUGH THE SCOPE)

Morotin (DASHES OFF) Come on, Nicholas! (PURTOV RETURNS WITH THREE PISTOLS. HE GIVES ONE TO BARANOV WHO STICKS IT IN HIS BELT. HE PUTS ONE IN HIS OWN BELT AND HOLDS THE OTHER. SHIELDS AND GALAK ARRIVE PULLING A SMALL CANNON. THEY PLACE IT ABOVE THE TABLE D.L. AND PREPARE TO FIRE.

Baranov Don't fire! They may be peaceful! We don't want to start a war!

Purtov Look at them! There must be fifty canoes!

Shields They're turning! They're turning away!

Baranov They are heading for the other shore of the bay!

Purtov There's one of them coming this way!

Shields Can you see who's in it?

Baranov The one in front looks like a chief.

Shields This doesn't look good to me. Why are the others turning away?

Baranov If their mission is peaceful, it's probably because they don't trust us. They want to investigate us first.

Shields It looks like a trick.

Purtov They are waving branches.

Baranov That means they are coming in peace. (HE TURNS TO THE OTHERS)
Put your guns out of sight, and stand by. (THEY MOVE QUICKLY.
SOME HIDE OFF STAGE. SHIELDS AND GALAK PULL THE CANNON OFF D.R.
THEN THEY RETURN TO STAND NEAR BARANOV. IN A MOMENT SIX INDIANS
ENTER FROM U.L. THE ONE LEADING THE GROUP IS THE CHIEF OF MANY
KENAITZE TRIBES. HE IS DRESSED IN REINDEER SKINS, RICHLY DECORATED
WITH OTHER ANIMAL SKINS AND BEADS. HIS HEAD IS UNCOVERED. HIS
HAIR FALLS STRAIGHT DOWN AROUND HIS HEAD TO HIS SHOULDERS. IT IS
CUT IN ROUGH BANGS ACROSS HIS FOREHEAD. THE OTHER INDIANS ARE
DRESSED IN A SIMILAR FASHION THOUGH NOT SO RICHLY. THEIR HAIR IS
SIMILAR, THOUGH NOT AS LONG AS THE CHIEF'S. THE INDIANS CARRY
GIFTS OF SKINS, BASKETS, CARVED IMPLEMENTS, ETC. THE CHIEF TURNS
TO THE INDIANS AND SAYS IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE, "WAIT." THEN HE
CROSSES TO PURTOV THINKING HE IS BARANOV. HE HOLDS UP A BRANCH
OF FIR AND SPEAKS AGAIN)

Chief "I am Razkashikov, Toyon of Kenai people! (PURTOV IS CONFUSED)

Baranov (CALLS) Richard! (RICHARD CROSSES TO BARANOV) Bring Ayam!
(RICHARD DASHES OFF D.R. AND BARANOV CROSSES TO THE CHIEF, POINTS
TO HIMSELF) I, Baranov--Toyon of Russian people! (THE CHIEF

SMILES IN UNDERSTANDING, TURNS AND MOTIONS HIS MEN TO BRING THE PRESENTS WHICH THEY PLACE AT THE FEET OF BARANOV. RICHARD RETURNS WITH AN INDIAN BOY BY THE NAME OF AYAM) Tell the chief that I, Baranov, Toyan of the Russians, thank him for his generous gifts, and welcome him to our camp. (MOROTIN AND MOLAKAR, WITH TWO OTHER MEN, ARRIVE BRINGING STRINGS OF BEADS, CLOTH, DENIM, AND SOME PATTERNED SILK AND JEWELRY OF BRASS AND COPPER)

Ayam (TRANSLATES BARANOV'S WORDS TO THE KENAITZE CHIEF)

Baranov (MOTIONS HIS MEN TO PLACE THE TRADE GOODS AT THE FEET OF THE CHIEF)

Chief (SAYS IN INDIAN -- "I -- RASKASHIKOV, TOYON OF KENAITZE TRIBES, COME AS A BROTHER TO GREAT CHIEF OF RUSSIANS. THE RUSSIAN GIFTS SAY THAT RUSSIAN CHIEF WANTS FRIENDSHIP. I AM PLEASED WITH THE RUSSIAN GIFTS")

Ayam (TRANSLATES)

Chief (BECKONS TO AYAM, WHO CROSSES TO HIM. HE TALKS IN LOW TONES WITH AYAM. THE RUSSIANS BECOME UNEASY AND LOOK AT EACH OTHER)

Ayam Chief say -- he come to see who is leader of Russians -- Baranov or Konovalov! He say Konovalov laugh at Baranov and say Baranov is afraid like ground squirrel.

Baranov Tell Raskashikov that Baranov is Russian leader. Baranov speaks for the Empress. Tell him Konovalov is an outlaw and will be punished.

Ayam (TRANSLATES TO CHIEF)

Chief (SPEAKS AGAIN IN LOW TONES TO AYAM)

Ayam Chief say he -- he want proof of Baranov's friendship. He say if Konovalov kill any more of his people, the tribes will go to war

and drive Russians out of country.

Baranov Tell the Chief I do not trust him. If he came in peace, ask him why his warriors came ready to fight. Ask him why they landed on the other shore.

Ayam (FRIGHTENED -- TRANSLATES THIS TO CHIEF)

Chief (SILENT FOR A MOMENT--SMILES AND SPEAKS)

Ayam (SMILES WITH RELIEF) Chief say he wanted to make sure of Baranov's friendship before he brought his men. He now believe Baranov.
(THE CHIEF WHISPERS TO HIS MEN -- ONE OF THEM DEPARTS) Chief will send for his warriors. They will come. They will celebrate friendship with Baranov.

Baranov Tell the Chief, Baranov will go to Konovalov and will demand that he stop his evil ways.

Ayam (TRANSLATES. THE CHIEF NODS, SMILES, AND SPEAKS AGAIN) Chief say he will prove his trust in Baranov with a gift. (THE CHIEF TURNS AGAIN TO HIS MEN AND CALLS. THE MEN OPEN UP AND FROM BEHIND THEM WALKS AN INDIAN GIRL. SHE IS DRESSED IN DEER SKINS. HER HAIR IS CUT IN BANGS OVER HER FOREHEAD, AND GATHERED IN A KNOT BEHIND HER HEAD. SHE IS DARK AND BEAUTIFUL, IMPASSIVE AND SHY, AND STANDS WITH HER HEAD BOWED NEAR THE CHIEF. RASKASHIKOV SPEAKS AGAIN)

Ayam The Chief gives Baranov his daughter, the Princess, to be his wife. (THIS CAUSES A GREAT STIR AMONG THE RUSSIAN MEN. BARANOV IS DISTURBED)

Baranov Tell -- Tell Raskashikov, Baranov is very pleased with this gift, but tell him I can not accept, because I already have Russian wife.

Ayam (TRANSLATES. THE CHIEF IS IRRITATED AND SPEAKS QUICKLY. AYAM NODS AND REPLIES. THE CHIEF LAUGHS AND SPEAKS AGAIN)

- Ayam (TURNS TO BARANOV) Chief say since Baranov's wife is in Russia he needs woman to cook for him. He needs woman to care for him and comfort him. Chief wonders how Baranov can sleep with wife who is in other country. (THE MEN LAUGH)
- Baranov (HESITATES, WALKS U.C. TURNS AND SPEAKS RAPIDLY) Tell him I have a woman to cook for me and -- (THE EXPRESSION ON THE CHIEF'S FACE BECOMES HARD AS HE REALIZES BARANOV IS REFUSING HIS GIFT. GALAK CROSSES TO BARANOV)
- Galak Alexander. I think you are making a big mistake. Raskashikov is offering friendship. I'm a foolish old man, but I've been in the colony long enough to know that friendship with the Kenaitzes is better than war.
- Baranov (TURNS SLOWLY BACK TO RASKASHIKOV) Tell Raskashikov I am honored by such a generous gift. Tell him Baranov accepts his beautiful daughter. Tell him that Baranov would take her now, but he wants to wait until he goes to St. Paul where she may live in Baranov's house and receive the honor she deserves as the daughter of the great Chief of the Kenaitzes.
- Ayam (SMILES AND TRANSLATES)
- Chief (SMILES AND NODS. HE THEN REMOVES A PENDANT FROM HIS NECK. IT IS MADE OF BONE AND POUNDED COPPER, AND HELD BY A RAW HIDE THONG. HE GIVES IT TO HIS DAUGHTER, SPEAKING TO HER AS HE DOES SO. THE GIRL WALKS TO BARANOV AND PLACES IT ON HIS NECK. SHE THEN LOWERS HERSELF TO HER KNEES. BARANOV DOESN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO)
- Ayam She waits for your words.
- Baranov Tell her Baranov wants her to go home and stay with her father until

the big ship is finished, then he will send for her and make her his----- (HE LOOKS AROUND AT HIS MEN. THEY ARE ALL GRINNING) --his wife.

Ayam

(TRANSLATES. THE GIRL RISES, GOES TO HER FATHER. THE CHIEF SMILES AND NODS. THEN HE SPEAKS) Chief Raskashikov says he will have his tribes hunt food for Russians who build great ship. He says now that Baranov and Raskashikov are in same family we must have big celebration. (THE CHIEF SHOUTS TO HIS MEN. THE INDIANS START SHOUTING AND DANCING, AND THE RUSSIANS CHEER AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES)

Scene 5

(it is June 1794, same setting as scene 4)

(AS THE SCENE OPENS, SHIELDS IS LEANING AGAINST THE STERN OF THE SHIP U.C. HE FACES UP STAGE. GALAK IS LYING ON THE GROUND D.L. MOLAKAR IS SITTING ON A SAW HORSE D.R. PURTOV IS STANDING NEAR HIM HOLDING AN AXE. NO ONE IS WORKING. IT IS OMINOUSLY QUIET EXCEPT FOR GALAK'S HUMMING A TUNE. MOROTIN AND A HUNTER ENTER FROM U.L.)

Morotin Is he still in there? (POINTS TO THE SHACK U.R.)

Purtov (LOOKS UP AND NODS) Yes.

Morotin I want to know--does he want us to hunt?

Shields (WITHOUT TURNING) He doesn't know what he wants.

Purtov Shut up! (HE APPROACHES SHIELDS) If he didn't say don't fight with you, I'd break your head!

Shields (TURNING) Why doesn't he come out. Why doesn't he let us know what he's doing?

Purtov Why should he let you know? You told the men to quit work. You threw food in his face.

Shields Ha! You said yourself you couldn't eat it!

Purtov (GRUNTS)

Shields What kind of man is he? He makes big promises. Then he doesn't keep them! He promised the Kenaitze Chief he would punish Konovalov. Then he lets Konovalov spit in his face. Now we're not getting food from the Kenaitzes, because the great Baranov hasn't done one damned thing to stop Konovalov.

Purtov He sent hunters to see him---

Shields (DISDAINFULLY) Hunters! What can a few hunters do to Konovalov and a whole fort full of men!

Purtov He has a plan----

Shields Then why doesn't he let us know what it is? Four days--- Four days he's been in there and not one word! (HE WALKS D.C. AND TURNS TO PURTOV) He's a coward! (PURTOV STARTS FOR SHIELDS WHEN MOLAKAR INTERRUPTS)

Molakar (POINTS TOWARD LEFT STAGE) There is a boat! (THEY ALL TURN AND LOOK OFF U.L.)

Morotin It's our hunters! They are coming back! Looks like someone else with them. (GALAK RISES ON ONE ELBOW AND LOOKS)

Galak Oh, my God, it's Konovalov! (HE SCRAMBLES OFF THE FLOOR AND RUNS TOWARD THE SHIP)

Shields Get the guns! Purtov, tell Baranov! (SHIELDS, MOROTIN AND MOLAKAR RUN OFF U.R. GALAK CLIMBS THE LADDER TO THE SHIP AND HIDES)

Purtov (RUNS TO BARANOV'S HOUSE AND POUNDS ON THE DOOR) Alexander! Alexander! Konovalov is coming! (BARANOV COMES OUT. HIS PISTOL IS IN HIS BELT. RICHARD IS BEHIND HIM) Shall I ring the alarm?

Baranov (SHARPLY) No! (SHIELDS, MOROTIN AND MOLAKAR COME RUNNING FROM U.R. MOROTIN AND MOLAKAR CARRY RIFLES. SHIELDS CARRIES A PISTOL AND A CUTLASS) Wait! And listen carefully. When Konovalov gets here, I don't want a single shot fired. Morotin! Molakar! I want you on both sides of him when he comes up from the boat. When I give the signal, I want you to disarm him -- take his pistols away! James, when they do that, pull your pistol on him.

(THE SHOUTING HAS ATTRACTED SOME OF THE OTHER MEN WHO COME RUSHING

ON THE SCENE) Igor, have our men get ready to disarm Konovalov's men when I give the signal! . And tell everyone to be quiet. You stay nearby. I may need you!

Purtov (BRANDISHING HIS AXE) I'll be nearby! (HE TURNS TO THE OTHERS TELLING THEM TO BE QUIET. THE MEN BEGIN TO FORM A HALF CIRCLE WITH THE OPEN PART OF THE CIRCLE FACING LEFT STAGE. GUNS ARE PASSED TO THEM FROM OFF U.R. MOROTIN AND MOLAKAR MOVE TOWARD LEFT STAGE. SHIELDS MOVES LEFT AND A LITTLE ABOVE BARANOV WHO STANDS AT LEFT CENTER STAGE. PURTOV STANDS BELOW AND A LITTLE BEHIND BARANOV. SOON NOISES ARE HEARD OFF U.L. AND FOUR HUNTERS ENTER LED BY KONOVALOV AND TWO OF KONOVALOV'S MEN. KONOVALOV IS A HUGE BLACK-BEARDED MAN. HE WEARS RUSSIAN BOOTS, A LONG BELTED COAT, AND A TALL RUSSIAN FUR HAT. HE IS THE TYPICAL PIRATE, COMPLETE WITH TWO PISTOLS AND A CUTLASS. BARANOV LOOKS PITIFULLY SMALL AND INEFFECTIVE ALONG SIDE OF KONOVALOV. HIS TWO MEN ARE BEARDED AND DRESSED SOMEWHAT SIMILAR. KONOVALOV STOPS SHORT WITH HANDS ON HIS HIPS. HE LOOKS AROUND AT THE MEN. IT IS EVIDENT HE IS SUSPICIOUS)

Konovalov (ROARS) You sent for me! You said you have the authority of the governor general to control Cook Inlet. I want to see that authority!

Baranov (LOOKS AT MOROTIN U.L. AND NODS. KONOVALOV NOTICES IT AND TURNS QUICKLY AS MOROTIN LUNGES FOR HIM. AT THIS MOMENT THE MEN GRAB KONOVALOV'S TWO LIEUTENANTS AND AFTER A STRUGGLE SUCCEED IN DIS-ARMING THEM.

Konovalov You sneak! You---you (MOROTIN GRABS ONE PISTOL AND IS THROWN ON

HIS EAR BY KONOVALOV, WHO DIVES AFTER HIM AS MOLAKAR JUMPS ON HIM FROM D.L., GRABBING THE OTHER PISTOL. KONOVALOV DRAWS HIS CUTLASS AND LUNGES FOR BARANOV.

Baranov James, your cutlass! (SHIELDS THROWS BARANOV HIS CUTLASS. THERE FOLLOWS A CUTLASS BATTLE BETWEEN BARANOV AND KONOVALOV. KONOVALOV IS WOUNDED IN THE LEFT ARM. HE DROPS HIS GUARD FOR A MOMENT, AND PURTOV KNOCKS THE CUTLASS FROM HIS HAND WITH HIS AXE. RICHARD WHO HAS BEEN BEHIND BARANOV DARTS OUT AND GRABS IT)

Baranov (PULLS HIS PISTOL. SHIELDS PULLS HIS. THEY POINT THE PISTOLS AT KONOVALOV) Put him in chains! Lock him in the stockade! (THE MEN GRAB HIM BY EACH ARM AS BARANOV SPEAKS WITH HIM) One day I asked to see your authority to take the law into your own hands. Your answer was to spit in my face! I will not dishonor myself by repeating such a foul act on you. As for my authority to control Cook Inlet, you have seen as much of it as you will ever see! Take him away!. He won't bother us or the Indians again! (FOR A MOMENT THE MEN ARE STUNNED. IT IS HARD FOR THEM TO BELIEVE WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO QUICKLY. SLOWLY THEY COME TO THEIR SENSES AND START CHEERING AND SHOUTING "KONOVALOV IS CAPTURED", ETC. THEY CROWD AROUND BARANOV. DURING THIS, GALAK, WHO HAS BEEN HIDING ON THE DECK OF THE SHIP POKES HIS HEAD UP ABOVE THE DECK AND GRINS)

Baranov (HOLDS UP HIS HANDS) Wait! I want to speak with you! All of you! (HE GOES TO THE LADDER AT THE STERN OF THE SHIP, CLIMBS PART WAY UP, AND TURNS FACING D.C.) My men, from the bottom of my heart I thank those of you who have been faithful to your duties. What we do here is for the glory of our fatherland and the honor of the

Russian people! But some of you lacked faith and trust. You devided yourselves against each other, and against me! You stopped your work! You forgot your oath before the Commander of Okhotsk! You forgot your contract! You refused to accept the duty I assigned! You refused food when there was none better for any of us!

Let me remind you of a story you were told as children -- the story of a Scythian prince who had twenty-five sons. As he was dying, he called his sons to his bedside and asked each to bring an arrow. He tied the arrows into a bundle. Then he asked if any-one could break the bundle. No one could. Then he devided the bundle, giving each son his arrow. He then asked if they could break the arrows. And all the arrows were snapped in two. Then he said, "Remember that, my sons. As long as you are together, you will be invincible, and the glory of our race will endure forever. But, if you fight among yourselves and devide yourselves; as surely as you broke these arrows, your enemies will destroy you."

A man who did not know Christ said that. Yes, you, who are Christians, continue to quarrel and complain and plague your chief at every step.

I ask you, how did you live at home? How many of you were better than forced laborers? How many of you had a bench to sit on, except in the vodka shops?

Here you are part of our council and every man may have his say. You can become judges and prime ministers. Here you can become men, not slaves! And yet--you complain. Well, I am ready to

hear your complaints, and if I can help you in any way, I shall. I will now go into my house. You who have complaints -- come to me one at a time. You who have no complaints take up your tools and let the forest ring again with the sounds of your labor. (HE CLIMBS DOWN FROM THE LADDER)

Shields (CROSSES TO HIM) Alexander--I have no complaints. Your ship will be built!

Baranov (LOOKS AT HIM AND CLASPS HIS HAND) Thank you, James. (THE MEN START BACK TO WORK AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES)

Scene 6

(the same as Scene 5, August 1794)

(AS THE SCENE OPENS THE KENAITZE INDIANS ARE DANCING. THEY ARE ACCOMPANIED BY THE CHANTING AND BEATING OF SKIN DRUMS BY FOUR OTHER INDIANS SITTING U.R. OF THE SHIP. CHIEF RASKASHIKOV IS SITTING D.L. WITH SEVERAL OF HIS TRIBE. BEHIND HIM STANDS HIS DAUGHTER WITH EYES LOWERED. GROUPED IN LITTLE KNOTS U.C. AND D.R. ARE THE RUSSIANS, LAUGHING, JOKING, AND WATCHING THE DANCERS. ONE OF THEM IS RODIONOV FROM ST. PAUL. ANOTHER IS MOLOKHOV FROM COOK INLET. WHEN THE DANCE IS FINISHED, THERE IS A LOUD CHEER. AT THIS POINT BARANOV ENTERS FROM HIS SHACK. RICHARD AND AYAM, THE INDIAN INTERPRETER, ARE WITH HIM. HE WEARS A LONG COAT, BOOTS, AND SASH, AND THE PENDANT GIVEN TO HIM BY THE CHIEF. HE LOOKS QUITE IMPRESSIVE. WHEN THE MEN CATCH SIGHT OF HIM THEY SHOUT AND CALL HIS NAME. "HOORAY FOR ALEXANDER!" ETC. CHIEF RASKASHIKOV STANDS AND CALLS TO HIS DAUGHTER, GESTURING AS HE DOES SO)

Chief (SHOUTS IN INDIAN) My daughter will dance for Baranov!

Ayam (TRANSLATES TO BARANOV. THEN EVERYONE BECOMES QUIET AS THE DRUMS BEAT AND THE CHANTING BEGINS. THE GIRL SLOWLY WALKS INTO THE CENTER OF THE AREA AND BEGINS TO DANCE. THE DANCE IS SLOW AND FLOWING AT FIRST, THEN IT BECOMES FAST AND ALMOST SAVAGE, BUILDING TO A SHARP, ALMOST VIOLENT CLIMIX. WHEN THE DANCE IS FINISHED EVERYONE CHEERS)

Chief (SHOUTS AGAIN IN INDIAN) I, Chief Raskashikov, Toyon of Kenaitze tribes, give my daughter to great Chief of Russians -- Baranov!

Ayam (TRANSLATES)

Chief (TO HIS DAUGHTER) Go to him! (THE GIRL, WITH EYES LOWERED, TURNS AND WALKS SLOWLY TOWARD BARANOV. UPON REACHING HIM SHE STANDS SILENTLY LOOKING AT THE GROUND)

Baranov I will take the daughter of the great Chief Raskashikov.

Ayam (TELLS THE CHIEF)

Baranov (LOOKS AT THE GIRL) I will call you Anna.

Ayam (AGAIN TELLS THE CHIEF)

Chief (SMILES AND REPEATS THE WORD SLOWLY) Anna -- Anna.

Anna (SLOWLY RAISES HER EYES AND LOOKS AT BARANOV. THEN SHE SPEAKS)
Ah--leeks--ahn--dōor!

Baranov SMILES) Anna. (HE REACHES INTO HIS POCKET AND TAKES OUT TWO EARRINGS MADE OF GOLD AND JADE. HE SHOWS THEM TO HER, AND THEN PUTS THEM ON HER EARS. ANNA TAKES HOLD OF THEM AND A FAINT SMILE TOUCHES HER LIPS. AT THIS THE MEN CHEER AND THE INDIANS BEAT THEIR DRUMS. CHIEF RASKASHIKOV BOASTS TO HIS MEN THAT BARANOV IS NOW HIS SON. BARANOV REACHES OUT AND TAKES THE HAND OF ANNA AND LEADS HER TO THE SHIP WHERE HE STANDS ON A LARGE BLOCK OF WOOD. HE RAISES HIS HANDS FOR SILENCE) Today is a happy day for us all! Chief Raskashikov and Baranov are now bound together in friendship! When we depart for St. Paul we will leave Cook Inlet in peace. Our brothers, the Kenaitze Indians, and our Cook Inlet manager, Vassili Molokhov here, will never again be molested by Konovalov! (AT THIS THE MEN CHEER) Rodionov has brought us good news from St. Paul, too. He tells us the village is nearly finished! (BARANOV SMILES) Rodionov and I have reached a greater understand-

ing than we had at first. You see, he found my sea chest at Unalaska! (THE MEN LAUGH AT THIS) But, here is the best news of all! Ivan Kuskov made a treaty with the Kolosh Chief Skaoutlelt to hunt in Sitka! And he and Captain Izmailov brought back 2000 sea otter! (THEY ALL CHEER) Next Spring we will build a fort at Sitka, and we'll name it "St. Michael." (MORE CHEERS)

Purtov What will we name our ship? (THE MEN ALL SHOUT "YES, WHAT IS THE NAME?" "LET US NAME THE SHIP!", ETC.)

Baranov I have a name I will tell you about in a moment. First I must thank our dear friend Konovalov for furnishing the appropriate clothes for our christening ceremony, though the fit is slightly loose. (THEY ALL LAUGH) The time is here for us to launch the first ship ever to be built in Russian America. This is a day that will bring honor to us, and to our country; and those who have persevered will be rewarded by our company and our grateful empire. Some of you became discouraged when we ran out of the proper materials and had to make our own. Molakar made fine paint out of whale oil and ochre. Morotin made strong plates, and braces out of the iron of shipwrecked vessels. Galak made oakum out of moss and fir pitch. Purtov shaped strong timbers, and all the rest of you helped these men to make enough of everything to build our first ship. (THE MEN SHOUT "LET US HEAR THE NAME." "TELL US THE NAME." BARANOV HOLDS UP HIS HAND FOR SILENCE) I have selected the name "Phoenix" for our ship. (THE WORD "PHOENIX" PASSES AMONG THE MEN) It is the name of the ship of Captain Moore, who visited us three years and brought me my man

Richard. Captain Moore told me that the "Phoenix" is a beautiful bird in an ancient story. The bird lives 500 years, and then destroys itself to rise again from its own ashes more beautiful than before. Our ship has risen indeed from the ashes of this land. And one day soon she will fly across the sea to Russia, and bring back to us all the good things of home. And now on the 26th day of August, 1794, I christen our new ship the "Phoenix." (WITH THIS BARANOV SMASHES A BOTTLE OF VODKA ON THE BOW) Pull the lines! (AT THIS COMMAND THE MEN CROWD IN TOWARD THE SHIP, AND IT STARTS TO MOVE OUT OF THE STOCKS AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES)

ACT III

Scene 1

(six years later, St. Paul village, July 1802)

(THE SETTING IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS IN SCENE V WITH A FEW MINOR CHANGES SUCH AS A SHIFTING OF SOME OF THE MAJOR PROPERTIES - WAGON, SLEDGE, WOOD PILE, ETC. TO SHOW THE PASSING OF TIME.

AS THE SCENE OPENS, FATHER NECTAR IS SEEN U.L. TALKING WITH A GROUP OF HUNTERS. THE HUNTERS ARE NEAR CENTER STAGE FACING U.L. NECTAR IS SUPPORTED BY MIDSHIPMAN TALIN, FATHER MAKAR, AND FATHER AFANASSI. AS THE CURTAIN OPENS, FATHER NECTAR IS SPEAKING)

- F. Nectar Not a stick was left standing! All -- all of it burned to the ground. And those who were not murdered by the Kolosh perished in the flames. We warned him that only evil would come from building a fort at Sitka! And now it is lost!
- F. Makar Two hundred souls brutally murdered!
- F. Afanassi Many were not even baptised.
- F. Nectar And what is Baranov doing about it?
- Talin (FEELING THE NEED OF ASSERTING HIMSELF, HE POINTS AT BARANOV'S HOUSE) He's in there now, making plans to retake Sitka!
- F. Nectar If we are united, we can defeat him.
- Molokar What about the Aleuts?
- Morotin Yes!
- Purtov If he tells them to go to Sitka, they'll go!
- F. Nectar They won't follow him this time!
- F. Makar We've seen to that!
- F. Nectar We've talked with all the chiefs! They've all agreed not to let their people go.

F. Makar They're angry because Baranov has not paid them for the last hunt!

F. Nectar They would not risk fighting the Kolosh again. They lost too many souls!

F. Afanassi Poor creatures -- Tortured to death. And some of them never knew Christ.

Talin They won't have to worry anyway. Baranov is finished and he knows it!

Galak (WITH A MOCK LAUGH) Did he tell you that?

Talin Listen! Before I left St. Petersburg, Tzar Paul said he was going to put a Naval Officer in charge of the colony!

Galak (LOOKING AROUND) Where is he?

Purtov That was three years ago. Why isn't he here?

Talin We haven't had a ship in three years. That's why. It's only a matter of time. When the "Phoenix" arrives, you'll see.

Paul The "Phoenix" was supposed to come a year ago. Why hasn't she come?

Galak Maybe the Captain is a Naval Officer, Paul. I hear Naval Officers and fur ships don't get along so well.

Talin (NETTLED) It wasn't my fault the "Eagle" ran aground!

Galak Baranov thinks it was.

Talin What does he know about it!

Galak He could sail her. (LAUGHS)

Talin With Captain Shields by his side to tell him what to do!

F. Nectar Let us not quarrel among ourselves. This is a time when we must work together. We must all pray that the "Phoenix" returns from Siberia safely, and brings with her a new manager who is a man of

God.

- F. Afanassi A man of God! Let it be so!
- F. Nectar Will you all pledge your support? (THE HUNTERS LOOK AT EACH OTHER AND NOD HALF-HEARTEDLY) If he asks you to go to Sitka -- refuse! If we all stand firm, this murderer will be stopped! (THE HUNTERS DRIFT OFF U.R. MUMBLING. THE PRIESTS AND TALIN CONTINUE TO TALK AS ANNA COMES OUT OF BARANOV'S HOUSE U.R. SHE IS FOLLOWED BY BARANOV'S SON, ANTIPATR. SEDATE AND BEAUTIFUL WITH HER HEAD BOWED, SHE CLUTCHES A HEAD SHAWL AT HER THROAT. IN HER OTHER HAND SHE CARRIES A WATER BUCKET. AS SHE CROSSES TOWARD D.L. THE PRIESTS SEE HER AND STOP TALKING UNTIL SHE HAS DISAPPEARED)
- F. Nectar Poor soul!
- F. Afanassi A child of sin!
- F. Makar Aghanak say she carries another child.
- F. Nectar She will continue to bear his children, unless we can win her to Christ and get her to leave him.
- F. Afanassi We must lead her to Christ before it is too late.
- F. Makar We should speak to her ---
- F. Nectar I have spoken to her many times. (ANNA AND ANTIPATR RETURN FROM D.L. AND START TOWARD BARANOV'S HOUSE. THEY ARE JUST PAST THE PRIESTS WHEN NECTAR CALLS TO HER) Anna! (ANNA STOPS AND TURNS SLOWLY TOWARD THE PRIESTS) Anna, come here. (SHE PUTS DOWN THE BUCKET OF WATER AND MOVES A FEW STEPS TOWARD THE PRIEST, BUT DOES NOT LIFT HER HEAD) Anna, is it true you carry a child?
- Anna MERELY NODS HER HEAD)
- F. Nectar Don't you know that every child you bear is a child of sin?

F. Makar In the eyes of God, there can be only one wife.

F. Nectar Baranov has a wife in Russia.

Anna (LIFTING HER HEAD) She not wife. She not with him.

F. Afanassi She is the wife God has bound to him.

Anna Why she not here? (THE PRIESTS ARE CONFUSED. THEY IGNORE IT, KNOWING THEY CAN NOT GIVE HER AN ANSWER SHE COULD UNDERSTAND)

F. Nectar Anna, don't you want to become a child of God?

F. Afanasss (CONTINUING THE QUESTION) Accept the Lord, and put away your sins? (FATHER HERMAN ENTERS FROM U.R. FOLLOWED BY THREE CHILDREN. ON SEEING THE GATHERING OF PRIESTS, HE STOPS)

Anna You say I not go to church. You say my son not go to Father Herman school.

F. Herman (CROSSING TOWARD THE PRIESTS) Have you told her this? You would deny this child? (THE PRIESTS DO NOT ANSWER) Of such is the kingdom of heaven.

F. Nectar (IGNORING HERMAN, PRESSES THE POINT) Anna, leave Baranov now!

F. Afanassi Leave your sinning!

F. Nectar Come and be cleased, Anna! And god wil accept you into the church.

Anna I am wife of Baranov. I cannot leave him.

F. Makar Do you want to go on living in sin?

Anna (CONFUSED AND FRIGHTENED) No -- no!

F. Nectar Then you must leave him.

Anna Who will care for him and mend his clothes? Who will rub his hurts and comfort him?

F. Nectar Anna -- you may care for his house, but you --- you must not sleep with him.

Anna I ---- I not understand.

F. Nectar Anna! In the eyes of God, Antipatr was born a child of sin!
(ANNA IS NOW THOROUGHLY AGITATED. STIMULATED BY ANNA'S REACTION,
NECTAR SPEAKS WITH GREATER PASSION) You carry another who will
be born in sin! Your sins must be put away before you can come
to God!

Anna (BREAKS DOWN, COVERING HER FACE WITH HER HANDS) No! I not know!
Leave me alone! I not know! (SHE RUNS OFF U.R. ANTIPATR FOLLOWS
HER)

F. Herman (SHOUTS AFTER HER) Anna --- your water! (HE TURNS TO THE PRIESTS,
SHAKES HIS HEAD WITH DISGUST, THEN PICKS UP THE BUCKET AND CROSSES
OFF U.R. AFTER ANNA)

F. Afanassi I think we have won her.

F. Makar I'm sure of it.

F. Afanassi She will come to God.

F. Nectar May God be praised if it is so. (BARANOV - DISHEVELED AND SLIGHTLY
DRUNK, COMES OUT OF HIS HOUSE U.R. AND CROSSES TO THE PRIESTS.
FATHER HERMAN FOLLOWS HIM)

Baranov What were you saying to my wife?

F. Nectar She is not your wife.

Baranov You've been filling her head with talk of sin again!

F. Makar Do you deny the sin?

Baranov (GLANCES ABOUT) Where is she? (THE PRIESTS ARE CONFUSED, BELIEV-
ING ANNA HAD GONE TO BARANOV'S HOUSE) She is not in my house!
Where is she?

F. Afanassi (SHAKING HIS HEAD TOWARD HEAVEN) She has renounced her sins!

F. Nectar I know not where she is.

Baranov (TURNS TO FATHER HERMAN) Where is my wife, and boy?

F. Herman I know not, Alexander. (POINTS U.R.) She ran in that direction.

Baranov (TURNS TO NECTAR IN A RAGE) You tend to God's business! Leave my wife alone! Leave me alone! (THE HUNTERS GATHER ON HEARING THE SHOUTING)

F. Nectar I fear we can't leave you alone any longer!

Baranov (SUSPECTS A PLOT. HE LOOKS AT THE HUNTERS AND BACK AT THE PRIESTS) What are you talking about? What is it? What is in your mind?

F. Nectar I have been asked by the chiefs to speak for the Aleuts of all the villages. They have not been paid for their last hunt. The families of the men who were killed at Sitka are starving. They will not suffer any more! Neither will the hunters!

Baranov (SURPRISED) The hunters?

F. Nectar We've been three years without word from home! We hear rumors of the Navy assuming control. And you say nothing. And ever since the massacre at Sitka, you have stayed in your house drinking and planning to send more men to their deaths in vengeance against the Kolosh.

Baranov (TURNS TO THE HUNTERS) What is all this about? Is it because we are living so poorly? (NO ONE ANSWERS) Is it because you have not heard from home? Is there more to this than I've been told? (BARANOV CALLS HIS FAITHFUL HUNTERS BY NAME) Molakar? (MOLAKAR LOOKS AWAY) Morotin? (MOROTIN LOWERS HIS HEAD) You, Galak? What is going on?

Galak (SHEEPISHLY) Ahh --- it's maybe the killing at Sitka----

Baranov What else, Galak?

Galak Well, it's maybe - ----- three years since we heard from home and---

Baranov You've waited three years before! What is it now? (GALAK SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS) Makary? (MAKARY LOWERS HIS HEAD) Paul?

Paul I ---- I don't know.

Baranov (TURNS TO NECTAR) You've done a thorough job, Father Nectar.
(TURNS TO PURTOV) Igor, does Father Nectar speak for you, too?

Purtov (EMBARRASSED. HE LOOKS AT THE PRIESTS AND THEN AT BARANOV) If---
if the Navy takes over here, what will happen to us?

Baranov Who says the Navy is taking over?

Purtov Mr. Talin.

Baranov (TURNS TO TALIN) Well ---- I'm beginning to see a little light.
Weren't you satisfied in wrecking the "Eagle," Mr. Talin? Must
you now destroy the morale of my men?

Talin It was destroyed before I came. Your ---- your time is up.

Baranov Hmm --- And do you propose to take my place, Mr. Talin?

Talin (LOOKS AT THE PRIESTS AND BACK AT BARANOV) If I have to!

Baranov By what right?

Talin By the right of my rank as a representative of the Imperial
Government.

Baranov May I see your written authority?

Talin It isn't written --- but I ---

Baranov (EXPLODES) Then until I see it, I shall run this colony! And I
won't tolerate any further interference. (TURNS TO THE PRIESTS)
And you attend to God's business, or I'll have you thrown in
the stockade! (TURNS TO THE HUNTERS) And you, my friends, ---

why do you listen to all this talk?

Morotin

We want to know the truth!

Baranov

(SIGHS) You've heard everything I've heard. And -- who knows the truth. (BARANOV TURNS AWAY, HEARTBROKEN THAT HIS HUNTERS HAVE BEEN SWAYED BY TALIN AND THE PRIESTS. AT THIS MOMENT RICHARD ENTERS FROM THE U.R. CARRING THE WET, LIMP FORM OF ANTIPATR. HE IS FOLLOWED BY TWO ALEUT WOMEN. ONE IS AGHANAK. RICHARD CROSSES TO BARANOV WHO TAKES ANTIPATR IN HIS ARMS) Antipatr! (TURNS TO THE WOMEN) What have you done to him!

Aghanak

(FRIGHTENED) We find him in the water. We call for help. Richard come. That is all.

Baranov

My son! My son! (PUTS ANTIPATR ON THE GROUND) Where is Anna?

Aghanak

We not see Anna.

Baranov

(SCREAMS) Richard! Go find Anna! (RICHARD STARTS OFF) Hurry!

F. Herman

(CROSSES TO BARANOV) Alexander, he may be alive. If we can get the water out of him, perhaps with God's help we may----

Baranov

(IN ANGUISH) Save him! Save him!

F. Herman

(KNEELS NEAR ANTIPATR. BARANOV STANDS OVER HIM AS HE MASSAGES ANTIPATR'S CHEST. FOR A LONG MOMENT THERE IS NO SOUND. THE ONLY MOVEMENT IS THAT OF FATHER HERMAN. AFTER NEARLY FORTY SECONDS, FATHER HERMAN STOPS, RISES SLOWLY AND LOOKS TOWARD THE SKY. WHILE STANDING THUS, ANTIPATR MOVES, OPENS HIS EYES, AND MOANS)

Antipatr

(IN A WEAK VOICE) Mother.

Baranov

(KNEELS. HE IS CHOKED WITH EMOTION AS HE LOOKS UP AT FATHER HERMAN) Thank you.

F. Herman

It was God's will that he should live. (THERE ARE MURMURS OF

"MIRACLE." THE ALEUT WOMEN KNEEL, FOLD THEIR HANDS, AND MUMBLE.
AT THIS MOMENT A VOICE IS HEARD OFF D.L. CALLING) Skin boat! Skin
boat! (IMMEDIATELY EVERYONE LOOKS TOWARD D.L. BARANOV PICKS UP
ANTIPATR)

F. Herman (HOLDS OUT HIS ARMS. BARANOV GIVES HIM THE BOY) I will take him
to your house and wrap him in blankets.

Baranov (TO AGHANAK) Make some clam soup and feed him! (AGHANAK NODS AND
GOES OFF WITH FATHER HERMAN)

Purtov (JUMPS UP ON A BOX AND LOOKS OFF D.L., SHADING HIS EYES) Looks
like a Russian!

Baranov (JUMPS UP BESIDE HIM, LOOKING D.L.) Must be from Unalaska! Ring
the bell, Igor! (PURTOV RINGS THE BELL, AND SOME OF THE MEN HURRY
OFF D.L. AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES)

Scene 2

(three hours later, about 6:00 p.m.)

AS THE SCENE OPENS, THE BELL IS RINGING AND HUNTERS, CURIOUS ALEUTS, THE PRIESTS AND MIDSHIPMAN TALIN ARE GATHERING IN THE SQUARE. THERE IS A HUB-BUB OF CONVERSATION -- "WHAT IS THE MEETING FOR?" "WHY ARE THEY GETTING THE GUNS READY TO FIRE?" "WHAT IS HIS NAME?" ETC.)

Talin (HUSTLING AROUND D.R. WITH THE AIR OF ONE WHO HAS "INSIDE INFORMATION.") Banner, Ivan Banner. --He came from Irkutsk.

Purtov Why did he call the meeting?

Talin One of his men told me he came to read a proclamation from the Tzar. It's all about Baranov. (TALIN SMILES SMUGLY)

Purtov Is Banner going to take Baranov's place?

Talin I think so. I don't know for sure. But Banner said, "Baranov will get a big surprise today." Banner's a councilor in the government, you know.

F. Nectar It must be very important for him to paddle all the way from Unalaska.

Talin It's important, all right! (LEANS CLOSE TO FATHER NECTAR) I think this is what we've been waiting for. After today I don't think we'll have to take any more insults from Baranov. He will be finished.

F. Makar Where is Mr. Banner?

Talin He's with Baranov and Kuskov. They're in Baranov's house. (BANNER, BARANOV, AND KUSKOV ENTER FROM BARANOV'S HOUSE U.R.)

F. Makar Here they come! (THEY CROSS U.C. AND BANNER STANDS UPON A LARGE BOX AS EVERYONE CHEERS. KUSKOV CROSSES TO THE FLAG POLE)

Banner

I know you're wondering why I have come. Before I tell you, let the flag of our Empire be lowered. Tzar Paul is dead! (KUSKOV LOWERS THE FLAG TO HALF MAST AS A DISTANT CANNON BOOM THREE TIMES THE CROWD REACTS WITH SURPRISE) Long live Tzar Alexander Pavlovich! (THE FLAG IS RAISED AGAIN AND THE CROWD CHEERS. BANNER OPENS SOME FOLDED PAPERS HE IS CARRING, AND GLANCES AT THEM OCCASIONALLY AS HE SPEAKS) I am Ivan Banner, Councilor from Irkutsk. I started for the colony a year ago, but my ship wrecked near Unalaska. I came on by skin boat because the news I bring is too important to wait any longer. **Many** of you old and faithful hunters will be happy to know that a new charter has been granted his Excellency Nikolai Rezanov for the Russian American Company, and His Excellency has been appointed Supreme Commander of all the colonies. Rezanov has persuaded Tzar Alexander to grant full power to the Russian American Company to control all commerce in the colony, and administer to all Russians and native inhabitants for their welfare and the best interests of the Empire. (TALIN NODS TO THE PRIESTS) And now under the new charter, I hereby announce the appointment of Alexander Andreivich Baranov as the first Governor of Russian America! (REFERRING TO HIS PAPERS) And in behalf of your grateful country, by order of his Majesty Tzar Alexander First, I have been instructed to confer on you the high honor of the "Cross of St. Vladamir" for faithful service in hardship and in want, and ~~your~~ unremitting loyalty to your country." (THE CROWD IS SHOCKED TO SILENCE AS BANNER STEPS DOWN AND OPENS A BOX HELD BY ONE OF HIS MEN, LIFTS OUT THE DECORATION, AND PLACES IT ON

BARANOV'S NECK. AT THAT MOMENT A THUNDEROUS CHEER RISES FROM THE CROWD. THEY JUMP UP AND DOWN, CLAP EACH OTHER ON THE BACK, AND CROWD AROUND BARANOV. DURING THEIR DEMONSTRATION, MIDSHIPMAN TALIN QUIETLY DISAPPEARAS OFF D.L. PURTOV AND KUSKOV LIFT BARANOV UPON THE BOX AS THE MEN YELL-- "SPEAK TO US." "SPEAK TO US, ALEXANDER!" "WE WANT TO HER YOU SPEAK!", ETC.)

Baranov

(OVERCOME BY EMOTION, STRUGGLES FOR CONTROL AS THE MEN GROW STILL AND WAIT FOR HIM TO SPEAK) These have been long and sad years. This spring we lost our brothers and Aleut friends at Sitka, and now I'm saddened to say that our beloved ship, the "Phoenix", went down at sea with all hands and all of our supplies. (THE MEN ARE SHOCKED AS BARANOV CONTINUES) But -- in spite of these terrible tragedies, there is much we may be glad for. Tzar Alexander has promised more help, more ships. In fact, Mr. Banner tells me that two of his Majesty's war ships, the "Neva" and the "Nadeshna", will soon make a round the world trip, and will stop here. One of them will bring the Supreme Commander himself -- Nikolai Rezanov! (THE MEN CHEER AGAIN) Now, I pray from the bottom of my heart for our great Tzar who has rewarded me so well in -- in spite of my sins. And as a small token of my gratitude (TURNS TO FATHER HERMAN) I would like to give a thousand roubles to build a school where Father Herman may teach our Russian and Aleut children alike here at St. Paul. (THE MEN CHEER AGAIN AND SHOUT "LET US CELEBRATE!" "LET US HAVE A BIG PRAZNIK!" ETC.)

Baranov

Indeed we shall have a praznik, and all of you shall be my guests. (ANOTHER CHEER ARISES, BUT IT IS CUT OFF SHARPLY BY A CRY FROM ONE

OF THE MEN -- "SHIP!" "A SHIP!"

Kuskov It's a Yankee ship! (SUDDENLY ALL IS CONFUSION)

Baranov (SHOUTS) Go to your guns! The rest of you get clear! We may have to fight! Ivan! Get the glass! (TURNS TO THE PRIESTS) Go back where you're safe! Clear the square! (THE SOUND OF A FOG HORN IS HEARD FOLLOWED BY A VOICE CALLING FROM THE SHIP D.L. --"MR. BARANOV!" KUSKOV ARRIVES, GIVES THE GLASS TO BARANOV. BARANOV LOOKS THROUGH IT AND SHOUTS:) Richard! (RICHARD HURRIES ON FROM U.R. AS THE CALL IS HEARD AGAIN. "MR. BARANOV!" BARANOV GIVES THE GLASS TO RICHARD) Look and tell me who you see! (RICHARD LOOKS AND SOON A BIG SMILE COMES OVER HIS FACE)

Richard It is Mr. O'Cain! He was mate of Captain Moore - my master!

Baranov What's the name of the ship!

Richard It is --- "Enterprise" --- "The Enterprise."

Baranov (TO HIMSELF) "The Enterprise!" (HE TAKES THE GLASS, TURNS AND SHOUTS) Put up the guns! She's a friendly ship! (THE MEN START TO GATHER ON STAGE AGAIN AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES)

Scene 3

(mid evening of the same day)

(THE SETTING IS THE CAPTAIN'S CABIN ON THE BRIDGE OF THE "ENTERPRISE." U.L. IS A DOOR. RIGHT OF THE DOOR IS A CABINET. ABOVE THE CABINET IS A LARGE PICTURE OF A SAILING SHIP. BELOW IT IS THE WORD "ENTERPRISE." CANDLES ARE BURNING IN WALL BRACKETS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CABIN. ON THE RIGHT WALL OF THE CABIN IS A PORTHOLE. ON THE LEFT WALL, A LARGE CHART. BELOW IT IS A BENCH - OR SHIP'S BUNK. IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM IS A ROUND CLOTH COVERED TABLE. ON IT ARE GLASSES AND A BOTTLE. BARANOV AND KUSKOV ARE SEATED ABOVE THE TABLE - BARANOV TO THE LEFT. O'CAIN IS SEATED RIGHT OF THE TABLE. LEFT OF THE TABLE IS EZEKIAL HUBBEL, CAPTAIN OF THE "ENTERPRISE." AS THE SCENE OPENS THE MEN ARE TALKING AND DRINKING. THE SOUND OF HEAVY WIND IS HEARD. IT RISES AND FALLS OCCASIONALLY THROUGHOUT THE SCENE)

Hubbel All right -- you may have all the molasses, rum, sugar, flour, tobacco, the canvas and the guns -- for 800 prime otter.

Baranov (DRINKS HIS GLASS DRY, STARTS TO POUR ANOTHER, BUT FINDS THE BOTTLE EMPTY. THE WIND RISES TO A ROAR)

O'Gain (CALLS) Patrick! (THE DOOR U.L. OPENS AND A BLONDE AND TIMID IRISH BOY OF 15 ENTERS)

Patrick Yes, sir?

O'Gain Tell the Bos'n I want Mr. Baranov's boat tied securely. The wind may get worse. And get another bottle from the lower cabinet. (HE TOSSES PATRICK THE KEYS) Here!

Patrick (CATCHES THE KEYS) Yes, sir. (THE BOY GOES OUT)

Baranov (TOYS WITH THE EMPTY BOTTLE) Captain Hubbel, we were pleased when you came into our harbor to trade, and we can use the items you name, but not at the price of otter skins.

Hubbel Governor, I'll make one more offer -- the entire cargo -- everything - for 800 otter.

Baranov The hunting has been poor lately, and our otter supply is low. I'm sure you can bargain with fox skins in China. I'll give you 1500 fox skins.

O'Cain (THROWS UP HIS HANDS AND RISES) I've been told you are a hard man. I didn't know you were unreasonable! (PATRICK ENTERS WITH THE BOTTLE, PLACES IT ON THE TABLE, GIVES O'CAIN HIS KEYS) Thank you, Patrick!

Patrick Yes, sir. (GOES OUT. O'CAIN PROCEEDS TO OPEN THE BOTTLE)

Baranov You call me unreasonable?

O'Cain Yes! You know the Chinese want the otter. It's a long trip to Canton with only fox skins to trade.

Baranov I'll make it 1800 fox skins!

Hubbel We shall have to go to California and trade with the Spanish! (O'CAIN POURS BARANOV ANOTHER DRINK)

Baranov (RAISES HIS GLASS. THERE IS A GLEAM IN HIS EYE AS HE APPRAISES HIS DRINK) Captain Hubbel ---- as I recall, Mr. O'Cain is a gambling man. (O'CAIN MOVES TOWARD D.R. WITH THE BOTTLE IN HIS HAND) I presume you would not turn down fair odds yourself.

Hubbel (HIS INTEREST AROUSED) What do you mean?

Baranov You are both drinking men. At least, I know Mr. O'Cain is.

Hubbel I can hold my share. But what do you propose?

Baranov I propose we drink it out.

Hubbel I don't understand.

O'Cain (LEANS OVER THE TABLE) What he means is that he will try to out-drink one of us for the cargo.

Baranov Better than that, O'Cain -- I'll challenge both of you.

O'Cain At what odds?

Baranov Glass for glass, If either of you out-drink me, I'll give you 1000 otter skins for your cargo. If I out-drink you, your payment will be 2000 fox skins. (O'CAIN CROSSES TO HUBBEL. HUBBEL RISES AND BOTH OF THEM CROSS D.L. AND CONFER IN HUSHED TONES)

Hubbel What do you think of 2000?

O'Cain I'd hold out for 2500.

Hubbel All right.

O'Cain (TURNS TO BARANOV) Make it 2500 fox.

Baranov For the entire cargo?

O'Cain All of it.

Baranov (HESITATES) All right. (LOOKS AT HUBBEL, WHO CROSSES TO HIS CHAIR LEFT OF THE TABLE) Agreed?

Hubbel (NOT EXACTLY SURE HE IS DOING THE RIGHT THING) Agreed.

O'Cain (CALLS) Patrick! (CROSSES RIGHT OF TABLE AND SITS; PATRICK ENTERS) Patrick, get two more bottles. (TOSSES PATRICK THE KEYS)

Patrick (SURPRISED) Two, sir?

O'Cain (LOOKS AT BARANOV) Better make it four!

Patrick (DUMBFOUNDED) Yes, sir. (GOES OUT, LOOKING BACK AT THE MEN IN COMPLETE PUZZLEMENT. HUBBEL, STILL SKEPTICAL, PICKS UP THE BOTTLE TO POUR AS KUSKOV RISES AND CROSSES TO HUBBEL)

Kuskov (REACHES FOR THE BOTTLE) May I, sir? (HUBBEL GIVES HIM THE BOTTLE, AND KUSKOV POURS EACH GLASS FULL. HE IS THOROUGHLY AMUSED AT THE SITUATION, BELIEVING THAT NO MAN ALIVE CAN OUT-DRINK BARANOV)

Baranov Ivan, will you stay awake and be my witness and judge?

Kuskov I shall watch like an owl! (PATRICK ENTERS WITH FOUR BOTTLES OF RUM. HE PUTS THEM ON THE TABLE, GIVES O'CAIN THE KEYS, AND STARES AT THE MEN. HE IS STILL BEWILDERED)

O'Cain Patrick, are you in the mood for a song?

Patrick If you wish it, sir.

O'Cain Good! Get your wee-harp, and prepare to stay with us.

Patrick Would you be wanting me to bring my blanket, sir?

O'Cain (LAUGHS) No, Patrick, this is one night you'll have to stay awake.

Patrick Yes, sir. (HE GOES OUT)

Baranov Gentlemen, I propose a toast to the best man, whoever he may be.

O'Cain To the best man! (THEY CLICK THEIR GLASSES AND DRINK)

Patrick (OPENS THE DOOR AND STEPS INSIDE, AND SPEAKS TO CAPTAIN HUBBEL) Sir, there is a man Richard here to see Mr. ---

Baranov Richard! (HE RISES, CROSSES TO THE DOOR. RICHARD STEPS INSIDE) Did you find Anna?

Richard No, sir. I look everywhere. I look by the stream. I look in the forest by the mill.

Baranov Did you look below the cliffs?

Richard Yes. (HOLDS UP AN EARRING) I pick up the earring where Antipatr was found.

Baranov (TAKES EARRING AND HOLDS IT UP TO THE LIGHT) How is Antipatr?

Richard He is well. He --- he calls for you.

Baranov (LOOKS BACK AT KUSKOV. HE IS TORN BY THE DESIRE TO BE WITH HIS SON) Tell Aghanak to stay with him. And play the little game he likes with the beads.

Richard I will play with him until he sleeps.

Baranov If you find out where she is, come and tell me. (RICHARD NODS AND LEAVES. BARANOV RETURNS TO THE TABLE)

O'Cain Since we are sharing in the honor bestowed on him today, I propose a toast to Governor Baranov. (O'CAIN AND HUBBEL CLICK GLASSES AND DRINK)

Baranov Thank you, sirs. (HE DRAINS HIS GLASS AGAIN)

Kuskov (PICKS UP THE BOTTLE, FILLS IT AND TURNS TO HUBBEL WHO LOOKS AT HIS HALF EMPTY GLASS, GLANCES AT O'CAIN WHO SHRUGS HIS SHOULDERS) Gentlemen? (THEY DRAIN THEIR GLASSES. KUSKOV SMILES, AND FILLS THEM)

Baranov I have been honored in a day of sadness. My ship found her grave at sea. She should have burned in her old age so the legend of the Phoenix would come true. (HE RAISES HIS GLASS. THE OTHERS FOLLOW) May her crew rest in peace. (AT THIS POINT THE MEN ARE BEGINNING TO GET THICK-TONGUED. PATRICK BEGINS TO STRUM ON THE HARP) This has been a winter without one blessing. The Kolosh destroyed Sitka.

Hubbel Uh -- yes, yes; tragic, indeed. Why do you think they did it?

Baranov I'll tell you why they did it this spring. We trusted them. We were asleep, and (POINTS AT HUBBEL) your Yankee brothers

traded them the guns that made it possible! (HUBBEL IS EM-BARRASSED. HE LOOKS AT O'CAIN, AND DOWNS HIS DRINK) Two hundred souls! (HE SNAPS HIS FINGERS) Fifty of my best men! I can not live under the burden, so I'm going to restore Sitka or die in the attempt! (HE DRINKS AGAIN, AND HOLDS UP HIS GLASS)
Ivan, how many is this?

Kuskov This is the third glass, Alexander.

Baranov Should have been Vodka. Rum is hard on the head.

O'Cain (TURNS TO PATRICK) Patrick lad, stay awake and keep count of the glasses.

Patrick Are you going to drink it all, sir?

Hubbel I hope that won't be necessary.

O'Cain Patrick, remember which one of us is the last to stand.

Patrick I'll remember, sir.

Baranov Music! Let us be festive on this occasion. What does the boy sing?

O'Cain Irish ballads.

Baranov Irish? Hmm, what do they have to sing about?

O'Cain Let the Governor hear a song, Patrick! (PATRICK SINGS)

My love has gone.
My love has gone,
And I am sore distress-ed.
What can I do
To let her know
Her love to me is bless-ed?

(HUMMED CHORUS)

I called her name.
 I called her name
 Upon the night wind blowing.
 I thought I heard
 Her voice cry out.
 'Twas just the night wind blowing.

(HUMMED CHORUS)

(AS PATRICK SINGS THE SECOND VERSE THE LIGHTS SLOWLY DIM.
 BARANOV'S FACE IS THE LAST TO BE SEEN. AS HE WATCHES PATRICK,
 AND LISTENS TO THE SONG, HIS FACE BECOMES SAD THINKING OF ANNA
 WHO HAS RUN AWAY. WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE OUT PATRICK CONTINUES TO
 HUM AS THE WIND INCREASES IN TEMPO, THEN FADES OUT AS THE LIGHTS
 DIM UP. WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE UP, THE TABLE CLOTH IS RUMPLED, AND
 BOTTLES ARE OVERTURNED. CAPTAIN HUBBEL IS PROSTRATE UNDER THE
 TABLE, AND HIS CHAIR IS OVERTURNED ON THE FLOOR. KUSKOV IS
 STANDING, LEANING ON THE CABINET U.R. RUBBING HIS EYES, AND
 YAWNING. PATRICK IS TRYING HARD TO KEEP HIS EYES OPEN AS HE
 HUMS, BUT THE STRUGGLE IS TOO GREAT. HIS HEAD DROPS AND HIS
 VOICE FADES OFF AS HE FALLS ASLEEP. O'CAIN AND BARANOV ARE
 DRUNK. THEY SIT FROZEN IN THEIR CHAIRS, STARING AT EACH OTHER.
 O'CAIN IS LAUGHING)

Baranov Then--- then Izmailov and Shields took the "Phoenix" to Siberia--
 'n that old rascal Izmailov sneaked his boy and Botcharov's boy
 aboard ship ---- 'n took 'em to Okhotsk.

O'Cain Where they now?

Baranov Izmailov and Botcharov retired. (LAUGHS) Last I heard ---
 they were still fighting. ----- And ---- (DRINKS) Captain
 Shields ---- went back to fight in the war. 's good man -- James
 was. ----(HE IS SADDENED BY THE MEMORY) Well, sir ---

(LIFTS HIS GLASS, THEN LOWERS IT) 's your turn.

O'Cain M-m, no. (POINTS AT BARANOV) 's yours!

Baranov All right. (LIFTS HIS GLASS) A toast to Alexander Pavlovich!
(O'CAIN RAISES HIS GLASS AND DRINKS. BARANOV LOWERS HIS GLASS,
STARES AT O'CAIN, AND SHRUGS. BARANOV'S HEAD SLOWLY SINKS TOWARD
THE TABLE. O'CAIN LEANS TOWARD HIM, WATCHING GLEEFULLY. KUSKOV
IS ALARMED AND CROSSES TOWARD BARANOV)

O'Cain (RAISES HIS HAND, AND SHAKES HIS FINGER AT KUSKOV) No 'n'erference.
(STARTS TO DRINK AND NOTICES PATRICK HAS FALLEN ASLEEP. HE
SCREAMS) Patrick!

Patrick (JERKS HIMSELF AWAKE) Sorry, sir --- I dozed for a moment --

O'Cain Stay awake, Patrick!

Baranov Patrick, play --- play a lullaby for Mr. O'Cain.

O'Cain Ahh --- (LAUGHS A THROATY LAUGH) Not yet, sir! (PATRICK BEGINS
TO STRUM AGAIN)

Baranov That's --- That's (HIS HEAD BEGINS TO SINK TOWARD THE TABLE)
That's good.

O'Cain (LAUGHS) 's otter, Mr. B'ranov --- 's otter!

Baranov (CHUCKLES) Mm? (HE LOWERS HIS HEAD TO THE TABLE AND RESTS HIS
CHIN ON THE TABLE, WHILE HIS ARMS HANG BELOW THE TABLE) Mm. (HE
CLOSES HIS EYES)

O'Cain (WHISPERS HOARSELY) There --- Mr. Kuskov --- Y' see --- (KUSKOV
LEANS OVER AND LOOKS AT BARANOV'S EYES. AS HE DOES THIS BARANOV
OPENS HIS EYES, LOOKS AT KUSKOV AND WINKS, THEN LOOKS AT O'CAIN,
RAISES HIS GLASS ABOVE THE TABLE)

Baranov I p'pose a toast.

O'Cain Hmm. I think you're trying to trick me-- (LEANS TOWARD BARANOV AND SLOWLY DROPS HIS HEAD TO THE TABLE. HIS ARMS ARE ON THE TABLE)
 Mr. B'ranov!

Baranov (CHUCKLES AGAIN) What's your Emper's name?

O'Cain Don't have 'n Emper' --- 's pres'dent--

Baranov A toast to ----

O'Cain Thomas Jeff'son.

Baranov Jeff'son. (THEY BOTH EMPTY THEIR GLASSES. O'CAIN CLOSES HIS EYES. HIS GLASS, HANGING IN HIS HAND BELOW THE TABLE, DROPS TO THE FLOOR. SOON HIS HARD BREATHING IS HEARD)

Baranov (CHUCKLES AND WHISPERS) O'---Cain! (CHUCKLES AGAIN AND SPEAKS)
 O'Cain. (HE TOSSES HIS GLASS TO THE FLOOR AND RAISES HIS ARMS SLOWLY TO THE EDGE OF THE TABLE, AND PUSHES HIMSELF UPRIGHT. HE REACHES OVER, GRABS O'CAIN'S HAIR AND LIFTS HIS HEAD OFF THE TABLE, THEN LETS IT DROP. HIS CHIN HITS HARD ON THE TABLE, AND HIS HEAD ROLLS SIDEWAYS. HE IS COMPLETELY OUT. BARANOV CHUCKLES AS KUSKOV CROSSES TO TABLE AND PICKS UP A BOTTLE AND GLASS, AND STARTS TO POUR A DRINK) Ivan! I don't think he wanted otter skins --- d'you? (THEY BOTH LAUGH HEARTILY AS THE LIGHTS DIM TO BLACKOUT. DURING THE BLACKOUT THE INSET OF THE SHIP'S CABIN IS REMOVED. THEN THE LIGHTS COME UP REVEALING THE SQUARE OF ST. PAUL IN THE MOONLIGHT. BARANOV AND KUSKOV ARE HEARD SINGING OFF STAGE. THEY MAKE THEIR ENTRANCE D.L. SINGING:

"We will keep the otter skins,
 And they will get the fox.

We will keep the otter skins,
 And they will get the fox."

THEY REACH CENTER STAGE AS THEY FINISH THE SONG WITH GREAT
BACK SLAPPING AND LAUGHTER)

Baranov Ah, Ivan. It is a night for celebration. The storm is over.
The moon is out, and we've won a rich cargo (LAUGHS) for fox
skins.

Kuskov Alexander?

Baranov Yes, Ivan?

Kuskov What if they had refused to gamble?

Baranov (WITH A DRY CHUCKLE) I would have traded otter skins.

Kuskov Good!

Baranov Our men have been deprived too long to sell them out for a few
otter skins. Besides, we have some debts to pay with that cargo,
if we want the Aleuts to help us take Sitka.

Kuskov Well, we kept the Spanish from getting the cargo.

Baranov Not the Spanish, Ivan. They would have sold it to the Kolosh,
and the Kolosh would have used the guns against us. (A NOISE IS
HEARD OFF U.L. THEY TURN)

Kuskov Who's there? (A FORM APPEARS FROM BEHIND THE CABIN U.L.)

Baranov Ivan ---leave me. It is Anna.

Kuskov Goodnight, Alexander. (IVAN CROSSES OFF U.R.)

Baranov (CALLS) Anna! (SHE DOES NOT ANSWER) Anna, come here!

Anna You beat me?

Baranov I won't beat you! (SLOWLY ANNA EMERGES FROM THE SHADOWS. HER
SHAWL IS GONE FROM HER HEAD. HER CLOTHES ARE TORN AND HER HAIR
IS DISHEVELED. SHE REACHES BARANOV AND FALLS ON HER KNEES,
COVERING HER FACE WITH HER HANDS) Where did you go?

Anna I run away --- through woods. I get lost!

Baranov Why did you do it?

Anna (LOOKS UP IN FEAR) Antipatr! Is he --- Is he ---

Baranov He is all right. Why did you do it?

Anna I no know. I no know.

Baranov You talked with the priests?

Anna (NODS)

Baranov What did they tell you?

Anna Say child is sin -- evil spirit.

Baranov What else?

Anna Say -- put away sin. (SOBS) Say not come to church until put away sin!

Baranov (ANGRY AT THE PRIESTS, HE REACHES DOWN, GRABS HER, AND LIFTS HER TO HER FEET) What did they say about me?

Anna Say -- say I must not sleep with you.

Baranov (LETS GO OF HER AND SCREAMS:) Curse your meddling souls! (HE WALKS TO THE SLEDGE, GRABS IT, TRYING TO CONTROL HIS ANGER. SLOWLY HE TURNS BACK TO ANNA) Anna, listen to me, and remember --- Antipatr is not sin! New child is not sin!

Anna I not understand.

Baranov (PUTS HIS HAND ON HER ARM) No.-- How can you understand our sin when you haven't known our guilt. I-(POINTS TO HIMSELF) I am guilty, Anna. It is I who have sinned! (ANNA LOOKS AT HIM, STILL NOT UNDERSTANDING) You don't understand that, either. (WALKS AWAY FROM HER D.L., LOOKS OUT IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SEA. ANNA TAKES A COUPLE OF STEPS TOWARD HIM) I took you to comfort me.

When I went home, I knew you would go back to your people.

(TURNS BACK TO HER) But I did not reckon with the Church. I did not know you would want our God. (TENDERLY) And now I have brought you misery.

Anna I can go to church?

Baranov (TOUCHING HER) Anna --- not yet. Someday you can go, but not yet.

Anna Why I not go to church?

Baranov I can't make you understand that. And since I love my child, I can't release you. So I will tell you something you will understand. Your father - big Toyon, strong, powerful. Little Toyons not strong, not powerful. Little Toyons jealous, do not like big Toyon --- understand?

Anna Understand.

Baranov Baranov Toyon of Russians at St. Paul. Priests -- little Toyons. They are jealous. They do not like Baranov, so Priests try to hurt Anna. Understand?

Anna Understand.

Baranov But they won't hurt you again. Today great Russian Father say Baranov now is Toyon of all Russians in whole country. Now they won't dare hurt you.

Anna Understand.

Baranov Someday you will come to our church and seek our God, and be forgiven for the sins we have taught you.

Anna Someday I go to church.

Baranov Yes --- (TAKES HER BY THE HAND, NOTICES SHE IS CLUTCHING SOMETHING IN IT) What do you have?

Anna (HOLDS UP EARRING) I lose other earring. (BARANOV REACHES IN HIS POCKET, TAKES OUT THE OTHER EARRING, AND HOLDS IT UP IN THE MOONLIGHT) Oh--- Oh---

Baranov (PUTS THEM ON HER) Are you happy?

Anna I happy. (THEY WALK OFF U.R. AS THE LIGHTS DIM AND THE CURTAIN FALLS)

ACT IV

Scene 1

(Sitka - a night in October 1804)

(DOWN STAGE LARGE ROCK MASSES ARE PROJECTED FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE STAGE, TAPERING DOWN TOWARD CENTER STAGE. HALF WAY UP STAGE IS A TWO TO THREE FOOT GROUND ROW ACROSS THE ENTIRE STAGE. ABOVE THE GROUND ROW IS A BACKDROP OF MOUNTAINS AND SEA. DIRECTLY BELOW THE BACK DROP ON LEFT STAGE, A KNOLL RISES APPARENTLY FROM THE SEA. COVERING THE ENTIRE TOP OF THE KNOLL IS A FORT --- THE KOLOSH STRONGHOLD OF PERPENDICULAR POINTED LOGS. FRAMING THE PROSCENIUM D.S. IS A FOLIAGE DROP. AS THE LIGHTS GO DOWN, CANNON ARE HEARD FIRING IN THE DISTANCE. THIS SOUND IS INTERSPERSED WITH THE POPPING OF MUSKETS. THE FIRING BECOMES INTENSE WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE OUT. AS THE CURTAIN OPENS, AN EERIE CHANT IS HEARD. IT IS A SINGLE VOICE SINGING THE SOUND "OO!" IT RISES TO A HIGH PITCH AND FALLS THREE TIMES. DURING THE CHANT THE FIRING CEASES. ON STAGE THE SHADOWY FIGURES OF RUSSIAN HUNTERS ARE SEEN STANDING OR HUNCHED BEHIND THE ROCKS. KUSKOV HAS A CONTINGENT OF MEN D.L., AND PURTOV HAS ANOTHER AT LEFT CENTER STAGE. THE MEN ARE CARRYING MUSKETS. A SOFT GLOW OF LIGHT SILHOUETTES THE FORT, AND A THIN CURL OF SMOKE RISES FROM THE TOP OF IT, AS THE MEN TENSELY WATCH THE KOLOSH STRONGHOLD)

Kuskov

(STANDS UP BELOW THE ROCKS D.L. AS THE CHANT ENDS) That's the signal for surrender. (A MAN STANDS U.R.) Keep low! It may be another trick. (A WHITE FLAG IS SEEN RISING ABOVE THE FORT WALL)

Purtov

(ON STAGE RIGHT) There's the flag!

Kuskov That means they want to talk again.

Purtov Where is Alexander?

Kuskov He's on the "Neva" getting his wound dressed. (KUSKOV PICKS UP A TELESCOPE AND LOOKS AT THE FORT. ONE OF THE MEN NEAR KUSKOV AIMS HIS GUN AT THE FORT) Don't fire! They're sending another emissary! (A PECULIAR WHISTLE IS HEARD OFF RIGHT. THE MEN TURN TOWARD THE SOUND. IN A MOMENT BARANOV ENTERS WITH RICHARD. HE IS WEARING A DARK P-JACKET TYPE COAT, DRAPED OVER HIS SHOULDERS LIKE A CAPE. HIS LEFT ARM IS HELD IN A SLING)

Kuskov You saw the flag?

Baranov Yes, Ivan. I'll meet them here. (TURNS TO RICHARD) Richard, help me with my coat. I want to take off the sling. I don't want them to know they've hurt me. (RICHARD HELPS HIM OFF WITH THE COAT. UNDERNEATH IT IS A VEST OF CHAIN MAIL. RICHARD UNTIES THE SLING)

Purtov (CROSSES TO BARANOV) You should have iron sleeves, too.

Baranov Yes. Since I've worn the iron vest, the chiefs think I bear a charmed life. I don't want them to think any different. (RICHARD HELPS BARANOV PUT HIS COAT ON. IT IS PAINFUL PUTTING HIS INJURED ARM THROUGH THE COAT SLEEVE. HE BUTTONS THE COAT. TO PURTOV:) Can you see the vest?

Purtov (LOOKS CLOSELY) Not a bit.

Makary Will you let them stay on the island, Alexander?

Baranov (SNAPS) No! (HE CALLS) Ayam!

Ayam (WITH KUSKOV'S GROUP D.L.) I am here!

Baranov Come! I want you to interpret. (AYAM CROSSES TO BARANOV) Ivan!

Kuskov Yes?

Baranov Watch the fort. If anything goes wrong, fire the rocket! Captain Lisiansky is watching on the "Neva." If he sees the rocket, he will open fire with every gun on the ship.

Kuskov (TURNS TO HIS MEN) Ready your guns!

Purtov (LOOKS OFF LEFT) There's an old Indian coming with some children!

Baranov They're offering children as hostages. (TO KUSKOV) Is the flag still up?

Kuskov (LOOKS THROUGH THE SCOPE) It's still up. (AN OLD INDIAN WITH WHITE HAIR ENTERS THE CLEARING FROM LEFT STAGE. CLINGING TO HIM ARE THREE FRIGHTENED INDIAN CHILDREN - A GIRL BELOW HIM, AND TWO BOYS ABOVE HIM. THE GIRL IS ABOUT SIX. SHE IS CLUTCHING A NATIVE DOLE. THE BOYS ARE SEVEN AND NINE. THE OLD INDIAN CROSSES TO BARANOV AND BEGINS TO GESTURE AND TALK IN HIS NATIVE TONGUE)

Ayam (TO BARANOV) He say he bring children of Chief Skaoutlelt and Chief Kotlean for hostages, so Baranov will let his people stay on island in peace with Russians.

Baranov (SHARPLY) Tell him the chiefs lie! They do not want peace! Tell him I do not trust them! They must leave the island!

Ayam (INTERPRETS)

Old Indian (CONTEMPLATES THE GROUND FOR A LONG MOMENT, AND SPEAKS AGAIN)

Ayam (TO BARANOV) He say this land always home of Sitka kwan. Here great Sitka totems. Here Sitka spirits. Here Sitka people stay.

Baranov Tell him Chief Skaoutlelt promised peace before and did not keep his word. (HIS TONE BECOMES DEADLY) Tell him all his people must go! And never come back unless I ask them. Tell him if the Chiefs

do not obey this time I will blast them off the island? And no one will be spared!

Ayam (INTERPRETS)

Old Indian (SLOWLY LOOKS AROUND AT THE MEN, AND OUT ACROSS THE ISLAND D.R. THEN HE SPEAKS AGAIN)

Ayam He say he will tell chiefs. If chiefs do what Baranov say, they will give signal when he go back. (THE OLD INDIAN TURNS AND WALKS SLOWLY TOWARD LEFT STAGE. THE CHILDREN CLING TO HIM, LOOKING BACK AS THEY LEAVE. THE LITTLE GIRL DROPS HER DOLL AS SHE IS LEAVING. SHE TURNS QUICKLY, PICKS IT UP, AND RUNS BACK TO THE OLD INDIAN. THE OLD INDIAN STOPS JUST BEFORE GOING OFF STAGE AND LOOKS BACK ONCE MORE, THEN DISAPPEARS)

Baranov (CROSSES TO KUSKOV D.L.) We will wait! (THE MEN RELAX, SIT OR LEAN ON THEIR GUNS, AND START TALKING)

Kuskov Do you think they will do it?

Baranov I don't know, Ivan. Skaoutlelt is proud. To be beaten will be hard for him. If he surrenders, it will be with revenge in his heart. (TURNS TO RICHARD) Richard, the sling! (RICHARD PICKS UP THE SLING, CROSSES TO BARANOV, AND HELPS HIM PUT IT ON) We'll never dare be caught sleeping again. (GALAK, WHO IS WITH KUSKOV'S GROUP, WATCHES RICHARD HELPING BARANOV WITH THE SLING, AND BEGINS TO LAUGH) Does this amuse you, Galak?

Galak (STILL CHUCKLING) Yes! These Indians are smart. You put on an iron vest, and they shoot you in the arm. (LAUGHS AGAIN, AND THE OTHERS LAUGH WITH HIM)

Purtov (CROSSES U.R., LOOKS AT THE FORT) Ivan! Where is the glass?

(KUSKOV CROSSES U.R. AND GIVES PURTOV THE TELESCOPE. PURTOV LOOKS THROUGH THE SCOPE AT THE FORT) The old man has reached the knoll. He's --- he's climbing the hill ---

Kuskov (TO BARANOV) What is your plan if they don't surrender?

Baranov Captain Lisiansky will direct an attack with all three of our ships. The "Catherine" and the "Yermak" will move right up to the bluff. (HE POINTS TO THE FORT) The "Neva" will stand back to prevent their escape through the mouth of the river.

Purtov (STILL LOOKING) He's in the fort!

Baranov The ships guns will pound the fort until the walls crack. If we have to, we'll shoot fire brands -- (SUDDENLY A WIERD CHANT IS HEARD COMING FROM THE FORT. IT IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE HEAVY BEAT OF DRUMS. IT BEGINS WITH A LOW PULSATING MONOTONE OF VOICES. IT'S BEAT BECOMES ALMOST SAVAGE AS THE CHANT RISES IN PITCH AND SUSTAINS ITS TONE IN A FRENZIED, ALMOST PAINFUL CRY. THE MEN ARE FROZEN BY THE SOUND)

Baranov Ayam! What does it mean?

Ayam (PUZZLED) I think it mean they are glad no more fighting.

(ABOVE THE STEADY RHYTHM OF THE CHANT IS HEARD AN AGONIZING AND TERRIFYING MOANING THAT BECOMES ALMOST UNBEARABLE AS IT RISES TO A SCREAMING INTENSITY. THE EFFECT IS LIKE TWO CHANTS-- AN UNDERLYING RHYTHMIC CHANT WITH A SUSTAINED OVERTONE)

Kuskov God, that is a terrible sound!

Baranov Ayam, what is it?

Ayam (THOROUGHLY FRIGHTENED) I --- I never hear that -- I don't know. I ---afraid!

Purtov Maybe it means more trouble!

Baranov I don't like it! This may be to divert us. Ivan, watch the shore line! Igor, watch the fort! The rest of you keep alert and watch the ships for a signal. They may try to sink the ships. (THE MEN COMPLY) Let us pray that morning comes soon. (AS THE MEN WATCH, THE LIGHTS SLOWLY FADE OUT LEAVING ONLY A SOFT BLOOD-RED GLOW COMING FROM THE FORT. FINALLY THE RED GLOW DIMS OUT AS THE CHANT FADES INTO SILENCE. AFTER 10 SECONDS OF BLACKOUT THE COLD MORNING LIGHT IS DIMMED UP, REVEALING SOME OF PURTOV'S MEN WATCHING OFF LEFT. KUSKOV AND HIS MEN ARE ABSENT. PURTOV STANDS WITH THE SCOPE, WATCHING THE FORT)

Baranov (PACING NERVOUSLY, HEARS A SOUND OFF LEFT, GRABS HIS PISTOL OUT OF HIS BELT) Is that you, Ivan?

Ayam (FRIGHTENED) I ---I afraid to go to fort!

Baranov (ANGRY, GRABS AYAM) You ran away? (AYAM IS FROZEN WITH FEAR) Where is Kuskov and the men?

Ayam They --- they go into fort.

Baranov (IN RAGE, THROWS AYAM TO THE GROUND) God damn you! Why didn't you stay with him! He may have needed you to interpret.

Ayam (TERRIFIED) No sound ---- No sound in fort! No think anyone there!

Baranov Get out of here! (AYAM CRAWLS OFF D.L.) (TO PURTOV) What do you see?

Purtov (LOOKING THROUGH THE SCOPE) Only the carrion birds - circling.

Baranov (GRABS THE SCOPE FROM PURTOV, LOOKS FOR A MOMENT AND GIVE IT BACK) Damn! I should never have sent him up there. It's a trap!

(PACES AGAIN) Their silence is worse than their screaming!

(CROSSES TO PURTOV) If we don't hear from them in another---

Purtov (SHOUTS) He's coming! (HE GIVES BARANOV THE GLASS) Here!

Baranov (LOOKS THROUGH THE SCOPE FOR A MOMENT, THEN GIVES IT TO PURTOV)

Thank God they're all right! (HE CROSSES D.R. AND SITS ON AN EDGE OF ROCK. HE SUDDENLY LOOKS VERY OLD AND TIRED. HE PUTS HIS HEAD ON HIS HANDS FOR A MOMENT, THEN SLOWLY LIFTS HIS HEAD, LOOKS TOWARD AYAM, AND CALLS SOFTLY) Ayam! (AYAM RISES, BUT DOESN'T MOVE FURTHER) Come. (AYAM CROSSES SLOWLY TOWARD BARANOV. HE IS STILL AFRAID. HE STOPS NEAR BARANOV) I am sorry. (AYAM DOES NOT SPEAK) All right?

Ayam (BEGINS TO GRIN) All right. (BARANOV RAISES HIS HAND. AYAM TAKES IT AS THE NOISE OF THE RETURNING MEN IS HEARD OFF LEFT. BARANOV RISES AS KUSKOV COMES INTO THE CLEARING. HE LOOKS LIKE ANYTHING BUT THE BEARER OF GOOD NEWS. THE MEN GROW SILENT)

Kuskov (SOBERLY) They are gone! (PURTOV'S MEN ATTEMPT A CHEER, BUT IT IS FEEBLE IN THE FACE OF THE SOBRIETY OF KUSKOV AND HIS MEN)

Baranov (CROSSES TO KUSKOV) What is it, Ivan? What happened up there?

Kuskov (DEEPLY SHOCKED BY WHAT HE HAS SEEN, HE HOLDS OUT THE DOLL THAT HAD BELONGED TO THE INDIAN GIRL. BARANOV TAKES IT) Those children----- They killed their children----- Slaughtered them all like little pigs--- their bodies thrown on the ground--- carrion birds tearing at them. (BARANOV TURNS AWAY IN REVULSION. THE MEN LOOK AT EACH OTHER UNABLE TO SPEAK AS THE CURTAIN FALLS)

Scene 2

(Sitka, nearly a year later - a stormy evening in August, 1805)

(THE SETTING IS A ROUGH LOG SHACK. THERE IS A DOOR U.R. BELOW THE DOOR IS A SHELF FIVE FEET OFF THE FLOOR. UNDER THE SHELF IS A SMALL BENCH D.R. LEFT OF THE DOOR IS A CRUDE COAT RACK. LEFT OF THE COAT RACK IS A SMALL WINDOW. LEFT OF THE WINDOW IS AN ENTRANCE FROM A SMALL ADJOINING ROOM. IN THE CENTER IS A ROUGH WOOD TABLE. ON THE TABLE IS A KETTLE, A SEAL OIL LAMP, A CANDLE, A SAMOVAR, AND SEVERAL MUGS. THERE ARE THREE SMALL ROUGH WOOD STOOLS -- TWO ARE ABOVE THE TABLE, AND ONE IS LEFT OF THE TABLE. THERE ARE A COUPLE COATS ON THE RACK, AND A COUPLE BOOKS ON THE SHELF. THROUGHOUT THE SCENE, WHENEVER THE DOOR IS OPEN, THE WIND INCREASES IN VOLUME. AS THE SCENE OPENS, A KNOCK IS HEARD ON THE DOOR U.R. RICHARD ENTERS FROM THE ROOM D.L. AND CROSSESTO THE DOOR, AND OPENS IT)

Kuskov (ENTERING) Hello, Richard.

Richard (CLOSING DOOR) Hello, Mr. Kuskov.

Kuskov Mr. Baranov still aboard the ship?

Richard Yes, sir.

Kuskov (OPENS HIS COAT, BUT DOES NOT REMOVE IT) He and the Commander must have a lot to talk about.

Richard Maybe Mr. Rezanov bring much good news from Russia.

Kuskov Or much good vodka.

Richard Yes. (LAUGHS)

Kuskov (CROSSES TO THE WINDOW, LOOKS OUT) Starting to rain. (CROSSES TO THE BENCH D.R. AND TAKES A BOOK OFF THE BOOK SHELF, THEN SITS)

Richard Yesterday, Mr. Baranov say it will rain today.

Kuskov Is he feeling better?

Richard I don't think so. His fingers swell up. His shoulder pain all night. He swear bad. Say "Richard, God-damn shoulder say it will rain tomorrow."

Kuskov This life is too much for him, Richard. He ought to go home.

Richard I think he want to go. He say to me, "Richard, how you like to go to Sandwich Islands?" He say, "King there want me to come and rest in sunshine."

Kuskov Would you like that, Richard?

Richard (HESITATES) I--- I---

Kuskov You would like to go home, too, eh Richard?

Richard Yes, sir. Before I serve Captain Moore I live in India. I would like to go back to India.

Kuskov Maybe you can someday. (A NOISE IS HEARD OUTSIDE. THE DOOR OPENS AND BARANOV ENTERS. HE DOES NOT SEE KUSKOV AT FIRST)

Baranov Richard! Is there hot water for the brandy?

Richard Yes, sir. (HE PROCEEDS TO DIP ONE OF THE MUGS INTO THE KETTLE, THEN HE POURS WATER INTO IT FROM THE SAMOVAR. HE REPEATS THIS FOR KUSKOV)

Baranov (MOCKINGLY, WHILE REMOVING HIS KAMLEIKA) We must prepare to receive his high Excellency, Nikolai Rezanov, Chamberlain of the Tzar, and Commander of all Russian America! (BOWS DEEPLY) Aren't you impressed, Richard? (HANGS HIS KAMLEIKA ON THE RACK)

Richard (LAUGHS) Yes, sir!

Baranov (TURNS TOWARD TABLE, SEES TWO MUGS) What's this?

(PICKS UP THE TWO MUGS) One for each hand, Richard?

Richard (LAUGHS)

Baranov (SEES KUSKOV) Ivan! I did not see you! Here! (HE GIVES KUSKOV A MUG OF BRANDY) Have some of Richard's hospitality! (NOTICES KUSKOV IS SOBER) Ivan! Why do you look so sad?

Kuskov (TAKES THE DRINK) Alexander, what will it mean, Rezanov's coming here? (RICHARD GOES INTO THE LITTLE ROOM D.L.)

Baranov (SITS U.R. ON A STOOL) He is inspecting his colony. (CHUCKLES)

Kuskov What will it mean to us?

Baranov God knows, Ivan. I have just helped him discover what a miserable lot we are. (CHUCKLES AGAIN) He will get another taste when he visits the palatial abode of the Governor of Russian America. And that is liable to mean--- (GESTURES, CUTTING HIS THROAT. BARANOV TAKES A DRINK OF BRANDY, COUGHS, AND SPUTTERS) God, that's hot, Richard!

Richard (COMES OUT OF THE ROOM D.L.) I make it cool?

Baranov No. It will be good for my bones.

Richard (CROSSES TO BARANOV) I rub shoulder? (BARANOV NODS OVER HIS SHOULDER TO RICHARD, WHO MASSAGES BARANOV'S RIGHT SHOULDER)

Kuskov When is he coming here?

Baranov At any moment. He's out inspecting our facilities, and talking with the men and the naval officers to learn the "truth" about Baranov!

Kuskov Does this mean you'll leave the colony?

Baranov I may be invited to leave, dear friend.

Kuskov Then I shall go, too.

Baranov AFFECTIONATELY) Ivan, you still have the strength, and there may be rich rewards. You would be the manager, Ivanovich.

Kuskov I lost my marriage and my youth out here. I would not like to lose my life as well.

Baranov (DRINKS) Ivan! You begin to sound like me! (TURNS TO RICHARD)
That is enough, Richard. I shall have to send you to St. Paul to take a lesson from Anna on how to rub an old man's hurts.

Richard Thank you. (HE GOES OUT DOOR D.L.)

Baranov (LAUGHS. TURNS TO KUSKOV) Your spirit is poor, indeed today, Ivan.
Did you have more trouble with our Imperial Navy?

Kuskov (NODS)

Baranov Who was it this time?

Kuskov Lt. Kvostov from the "Elizaveta."

Baranov Did you fail to pay him the proper respect?

Kuskov I conveyed your orders to get his ship ready to sail with the hunters. He said, "I am not a hunter or a trader, and I won't sail again without proper food!" He wanted to argue further, so I told him to see you.

Baranov (PICKS UP THE MUGS, AND GETS MORE BRANDY AND HOT WATER) He sounds just like Midshipman Talin. I wonder what they teach them at the Naval Academy? They all think they're more important than the Tzar himself. (SITS AGAIN. KUSKOV LIFTS HIS MUG AND NEARLY DRAINS IT. BARANOV WATCHES HIM AND LAUGHS) Ivan! I think you have been here too long! I can recall a time when you would have gone to the angels on one mug of this viscious brew! Remember the time you drank four mugs of vodka and tried to stop old Izmailov and Galak

from fighting over a woman? (LAUGHS HEARTILY AND RISES TO DEMONSTRATE) You--- you raised your mug and said, "You should not fight! You are free men." Then you collapsed like a rotten sail.
(AT THIS THEY BOTH LAUGH)

Kuskov That was when I got the letter from my girl. She married somebody else.

Baranov Oh, by the way, did you get your mail today from the ship? I asked Rezanov's clerk to see that you got it.

Kuskov Yes.

Baranov (WAITS FOR COMMENT) Bad news?

Kuskov My mother is going to lose her home. I can't send her enough money to pay for it, and take care of her, too.

Baranov (LEANS OVER, PUTS HIS HAND ON KUSKOV'S SHOULDER) Listen, Ivan, and don't argue with me. I will buy the house for her, and set up a pension for her. A little company stock will take care of it. You have earned it many times over.

Kuskov You can't do that. You have a wife in Russia to take care of, besides Anna and the children.

Baranov (FINISHES HIS DRINK, AND FILLS THE MUGS AGAIN) My wife is dead, Ivan.

Kuskov What?

Baranov Rezanov brought me the word today.

Kuskov (EMBARRASSED AT HIS OWN SELF CONCERN) I'm--- sorry, Alexander.

Baranov It is all right, Ivan. It was not a good marriage. We were not happy. Now, at last, Anna can be my wife. Now she can go to church. And that is her heart's desire. (THERE IS A KNOCK AT

THE DOOR. BARANOV RISES AND OPENS IT)

- Baranov Welcome to my house, Excellency! (NIKOLAI REZANOV ENTERS. HE IS IN PANTALOONS, WAISTCOAT, BOOTS, AND CAPE. HE SURVEYS THE MISERABLE QUARTERS) Will you take your coat off?
- Rezanov I will leave it on. This dampness has reached my bones already.
- Baranov (TURNS TO KUSKOV WHO HAS STOOD D.R. OF THE TABLE) This is my assistant, Ivan Kuskov. (THEY SHAKE HANDS)
- Rezanov I learned about you from Councilor Banner at St. Paul. And Alexander here praises you highly.
- Kuskov That is because I'm not an officer in the Imperial Navy. (REZANOV LOOKS AT HIM IN PUZZLEMENT, COUGHS, AND SITS ON THE BENCH D.L. KUSKOV SITS ON BENCH D.R.)
- Baranov (LADLES OUT A MUG OF BRANDY, PUTS HOT WATER IN IT, AND GIVES IT TO REZANOV) This will drive the dampness out of your bones.
- Rezanov (GATHERS HIS CAPE ABOUT HIM, TAKES THE CUP, AND PEERS AT IT) What is it?
- Kuskov (CHUCKLES)
- Baranov It is a venomous mixture of human sorrows and fermented wilderness.
- Rezanov (DRINKS AND EXPLODES) How can you drink this and live?
- Baranov (LAUGHS) I asked that question of Izmailov. He's an old navigator we had once. He said, "When your fire burns out, only a spark from Hell will revive it."
- Rezanov (UNABLE TO FATHOM IT) Alexander, I have inspected the area, and I am appalled at what I find.
- Baranov (WARMED THOROUGHLY BY THE DRINK, STANDS AND DRAMATIZES) Did you find that Baranov misgoverns the natives, and flogs the hunters?

Did the priests at St. Paul tell you how God-less I am? Did they tell you here that Baranov eats well, while his men die of scurvy? Did they describe to you that I am always hopelessly drunk? And! Did you learn that I am high handed with the officers of His Majesty's Imperial Navy?

Rezanov (SMILES) You deny all these charges, of course? (BARANOV IS CAUGHT OFF GUARD BY THIS SPARK OF HUMOR, AND FOR A MOMENT STARES AT REZANOV, THEN BURSTS INTO LAUGHTER. KUSKOV JOINS HIM. AT THIS MOMENT THERE IS ANOTHER KNOCK AT THE DOOR. BARANOV CROSSES AND OPENS IT. LT. KVOSTOV ENTERS, AND STANDS JUST INSIDE THE DOOR. HIS HAT IS OFF. HIS UNIFORM IS FILTHY. HIS COAT IS OPEN, AND PART OF THE BUTTONS ARE MISSING)

Kvostov (DRUNK) Baranov--- you won't get my ship for hunting tomorrow!

Baranov What is wrong with it?

Kvostov The rudder is out of order.

Baranov Why wasn't I told?

Kvostov I am not bound to convey to you the problems of my ship.

Baranov When can it be repaired?

Kvostov When you build a stock so we can haul it out of the water.

Baranov You know we can't do that in time for the hunt. We'll take the "Yermak."

Kvostov That old tub! It's not safe.

Baranov It's safe enough.

Kvostov Besides, I refuse to eat any more of your rotten food!

Rezanov What is your name, sir?

Kvostov (SURPRISED, NOT HAVING SEEN REZANOV) I am Lieutenant Kvostov of

the Imperial Navy.

Rezanov (RISES) And I am Chamberlain Rezanov, Supreme Commander in Russian America. Go put on a decent uniform, and practice saluting. And when you've finished, report to me at once with a full account of your ship, and the repairs required to make her seaworthy.

Kvostov (REDUCED TO NOTHING) Yes, sir. (STARTS TO LEAVE)

Rezanov One more thing. Go to my ship and tell my clerk to bring the dispatch case and report to me at once.

Kvostov (ANGRY AT BEING MADE AN ERRAND BOY) Yes, sir! (HE DEPARTS IN A HUFF. AT THIS THEY ALL BURST OUT LAUGHING TO THE POINT OF TEARS)

Baranov (RECOVERING) I would like to--- to hire your services for disposing of young Naval Officers.

Rezanov You won't need to, Alexander. After today you'll have the authority.

Baranov (NOT COMPREHENDING) What--- what do you mean?

Rezanov You'll know in a moment. (LIFTS UP AN EMPTY MUG)

Baranov You are learning quickly, Excellency! (POURS REZANOV'S MUG FULL)

Rezanov Did you have to fight this hard at the beginning?

Baranov Ho!-- Much harder! I fought everything then. First it was old Izmailov, who wouldn't take orders from a landlubber. Captain Shields taught me to navigate, but (CHUCKLES) Izmailov would never admit I could sail. The Naval officers still won't admit it. Next I fought Konovalov! You know that story.

Rezanov (NODS)

Baranov Then the priests! And through it all I had to fight with these

poor spiritless men the Company sends me-- convicts, debtors, and serfs, who could gain nothing by coming here. I have fought everything out here--- the wilderness, the sea, the Indians, my own men-- and the Company itself. (LEANS TOWARD REZANOV, AND IN THE MANNER OF A PRONOUNCEMENT) Now, I'm sick and I'm old-- and I want to go home.

Rezanov

(RISES, MOVED BY BARANOV'S WORDS, AND PACES D.L., THEN TURNS TO BARANOV) Alexander, my eyes have been opened out here. Your manager at St. Paul, Ivan Banner, told me the truth. In St. Petersburg you have become a legend. Now your Emperor desires to expand the colony-- (BEGINS TO PRESS HIS POINT) --There are riches in California and the Sandwich Islands! With your vision we could plant colonies there! Alexander, you have just begun to build! How could you leave it now?

Baranov

(RISING UNSTEADILY WITH HIS CUP IN HIS HAND, HE LURCHES TOWARD REZANOV) My God, I'm tired! (POINTS AT REZANOV) You came here filled with stories of my unfitness. You probably came to remove me. (TURNS AWAY) Well, I wouldn't have protested-- for I'm tired of making excuses and explanations that can not be understood unless a man see this colony, or live here. (HE PACES AS HE TALKS, AND HIS WORDS INCREASE IN INTENSITY AND FERVOR) Yes, I have pushed our empire into this wilderness. I've built her name and increased her wealth, but I've exploited the people of this land to do it. They have died fighting our battles. They have moved their homes to make room for ours. They have changed their way of life to suit our way of life-- (DRINKS DEEP) And I have punished

the children of this land for acting like children. I have been cruel, and unkind, and ungodly to my enemies!-- Even to my faithful friends. I have struck down those who opposed the purposes of the company-- I have even struck at God himself. And one day God must surely strike back a blow from which I shall not recover. (LEANS TOWARD REZANOV AGAIN) This cripples the soul, my lord. My body is broken, and my soul aches with the pain of my sins. CROSSES TO THE KETTLE) So (POURS HIS MUG FULL) I dull the pain with drink! (SITS) And now I am tired! And I should consider it an honor to be relieved of my duties, so I can stop my thoughts and lie down and rest. (AT THAT MOMENT A KNOCK IS HEARD AT THE DOOR. KUSKOV CROSSES AND OPENS THE DOOR)

Khlebnikhov I am Secretary to his Excellency---

Rezanov Come in, Kryll! (KHLEBNIKHOV ENTERS, CARRYING A DISPATCH CASE)

Khlebnikhov It is somewhat damp!

Baranov (SEATED) That is somewhat correct.

Khlebnikhov Sir?

Rezanov (INTRODUCES THEM) Kryll, this is Mr. Baranov-- and Mr. Kuskov. (KUSKOV NODS)

Baranov You must drink with us. (STARTS TO FILL A MUG WITH BRANDY)

Rezanov Alexander, Ivan,-- this is Kryll Khlebnikhov, my clerk and secretary.

Baranov You are in the Navy?

Khlebnikhov Ah-- no, I am not, your--

Baranov You are welcome! --Here! (PUSHES A MUG OF BRANDY TOWARD HIM. KHLEBNIKHOV TAKES IT)

Khlebnikhov Thank you, Excellency.

Baranov (LOOKS AT KHLEBNIKHOV IN SURPRISE, THEN LAUGHS) I have been called many names, but I have never been privileged to be called Excellency.

Rezanov (TURNS TO KHLEBNIKHOV) Did you bring the dispatch?

Khlebnikhov Yes, Your Excellency. (HE OPENS THE DISPATCH CASE AND HANDS REZANOV A ROLLED PARCHMENT)

Rezanov (REMOVES THE BAND HOLDING IT, AND OPENS IT) With your permission, Alexander. (HE READS) In recognition of your uncompromising devotion to your country, and your long faithfulness in the service of the colony of Russian America, it shall be known throughout the Empire from this day forward that you, Alexander Andreivich Baranov, are hereby appointed to the Imperial rank of Collegiate Councilor, and are henceforth entitled to be addressed as Excellency. By order of His Majesty Tzar Alexander I.

(BARANOV IS STUNNED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT. AS THE UNBELIEVABLE REALIZATION COMES UPON HIM HE CAN NOT BEAR IT. HIS EYES, PREVIOUSLY FIXED ON THE DOCUMENT, FILL WITH TEARS, AND HIS HEAD FALLS TO HIS CHEST AS HE WEEPS, UNABLE TO SPEAK. YOUNG KHLEBNIKHOV CAN NOT COMPREHEND WHAT HAS HAPPENED, AND LOOKS AT REZANOV CONFUSEDLY. KUSKOV, FINDING HIMSELF ON THE VERGE OF TEARS, TURNS HIS HEAD AWAY FROM REZANOV. REZANOV FOLDS THE DOCUMENT AS BARANOV SLOWLY RAISES HIS HEAD, WIPES HIS EYES, AND SMILES)

Baranov Ivan, this calls for a celebration!- Though our rations are meagre, we shall have a Praznik that will lift these dismal clouds, and stir our blood with memories of home.

Rezanov I will contribute a small portion of vodka to the celebration.

Baranov That will be most suitable.

Rezanov Now, with your permission, I would like to write a few dispatches to send home with the fur ship.

Baranov My house is yours. (CALLS) Richard! (RICHARD ENTERS FROM D.L.)

Richard Yes, sir?

Baranov Will you get my pen and ink-- and--

Rezanov I have paper.

Baranov Good. (NODS TO RICHARD, WHO LEAVES) The best I could offer is the wrapping from tea cartons.

Rezanov Is that the Malay boy you told me about?

Baranov Yes. (RICHARD RETURNS, PUTS THE PEN AND INK ON THE TABLE, AND LEAVES. BARANOV RISES) Ivan, while his Excellency writes, let us stir the camp. Perhaps we can find some more ingredients for our celebration. (AT THIS MOMENT THE RAIN BEGINS TO DROP THROUGH A HOLE IN THE ROOF, AND SPLASH ON THE TABLE)

Rezanov The rain is coming through the roof! Perhaps a board has come off.

Baranov (PICKS UP A POT FROM THE FLOOR, PUTS IT UNDER THE LEAK) No. It is just the old leak. (HE CROSSES TO THE DOOR, THEN TURNS BACK TO KHLBNIKHOV) Young man, I like the look of you. If you should want a real adventure in building a colony, I would like to hire you. That is, if your employer should ever decide to let you go.

Khlebnikhov Thank you, Excellency. I shall remember that.

Baranov Yes, I like the look of you.

Rezanov Alexander, does this mean you're staying?

Baranov (SMILES) It means you have made it too difficult for me to leave!

Rezanov I will furnish a large portion of vodka for the celebration!

Baranov That is entire suitable, but I should not want you to be too pleased.

Rezanov What do you mean?

Baranov (CROSSES TO WINDOW U.R.C.) Will you look through this window for a moment? (REZANOV CROSSES AND LOOKS OUT WITH BARANOV) There on that hill was the last stronghold of the Sitka Kwan. There I shall build a castle worthy of the faith of my gracious sovereign. When the castle is completed and our village established, I shall wish to go home. Until then, Excellency, I am at your service.

Rezanov And I am grateful, Excellency. (BARANOV AND KUSKOV LEAVE. REZANOV CONTINUES TO LOOK OUT THE WINDOW. KHLEBNIKHOV GETS OUT MATERIALS FOR WRITING A DISPATCH. REZANOV REMAINS AT THE WINDOW LOOKING OUT) There is a man, Kryll-- a wonderful man-- a child of nature. (TURNS AND GESTURES) Look how he lives-- worse than the least of his men. How wrong I was to listen to the tales of his enemies. (PACES) Baranov is the only one who could manage these misery ridden colonies. He deserves to get drunk! (TURNS BACK TO KHLEBNIKHOV) I tell you, Kryll-- if it were not for this man, the history of the Russian America Company would be a blank. He is greater than the men who conceived it. (HE PREPARES TO SIT AT THE TABLE U.C.) If we succeed in pushing the colony to California, it will be because Baranov wills it. (HE SITS) If you should want to serve him, I would not stand in your way.

Khlebnikhov Thank you, sir. I think I would find it most interesting.

Rezanov Let us prepare a dispatch to the Emperor. We shall ask for further rewards for this man, and rank for his faithful Lt. Kuskov. Yes, I think the Emperor would like to hear a bit of the truth about his colony, and the man who built it. (HE NOTICES THAT

KHLEBNIKHOV HAS NOT TOUCHED HIS DRINK) Kryll, you haven't touched your drink!

Khlebnikhov Oh-- I---- I forgot!

Rezanov (TAKES HIS MUG, LIFTS IT IN THE AIR, AND PROPOSES A TOAST)
Here's to new glory for the empire! (KHLEBNIKHOV RAISES HIS MUG, CLICKS IT WITH REZANOV'S, AND THEY DOWN THEIR DRINKS.
SUDDENLY A LOOK OF HORROR COMES OVER KHLEBNIKHOV'S FACE. HE LOOKS AT REZANOV, UNABLE TO BREATHE. REZANOV LOOKS AT KHLEBNIKHOV QUIZZICALLY AS THE CURTAIN CLOSSES)

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ACT V

Scene 1

(Sitka, a late afternoon, June 1812)

(THE SCENE IS SET IN THE MAIN ROOM OF THE BARANOV CASTLE. THE ROOM IS OF LOG CONSTRUCTION. IT IS LARGE WITH AN ASSORTMENT OF PERIOD FURNITURE FROM SEVERAL COUNTRIES WITH WHICH BARANOV HAS HAD CONTACT THROUGH THE SHIP CAPTAINS. ON THE RIGHT WALL IS A HUGE STONE FIREPLACE WITH A BROAD WOOD SLAB MANTEL. ABOVE THE MANTEL ARE CROSSED CUTLASSES. ABOVE THE CUTLASSES IS A RAM'S MOUNTED HEAD. AT THE U. R. CORNER OF THE ROOM IS AN ENTRANCE. THE UPSTAGE WALL IS BROKEN BY A STAIRCASE-LANDING LEADING OFF RIGHT BEHIND THE UPSTAGE RIGHT WALL. ON THE LEFT END OF THE LANDING ARE TWO SECTIONS OF STEPS; ONE SECTIONS RUNS TOWARD LEFT STAGE TO ANOTHER SMALL LANDING TWO STEPS ABOVE THE MAIN FLOOR. THE OTHER RUNS DOWN STAGE TO THE MAIN FLOOR.

ON THE UPSTAGE WALL ABOVE THE LANDING ARE TWO LARGE CASEMENT WINDOWS. A RAILING RUNS THE LENGTH OF THE BALCONY AND DOWN TO THE MAIN FLOOR. ON THE EXTREME LEFT END OF THE UPSTAGE WALL IS ANOTHER DOOR. EXTENDING HALFWAY DOWN THE LEFT WALL ARE BOOK-SHELVES D. L. AGAINST THE WALL ARE A LARGE DESK AND A DESK CHAIR. RIGHT OF THE DESK IS A LARGE HIGH BACK ORNATE WOOD ARM CHAIR RESEMBLING A THRONE. OTHER APPROPRIATE CHAIRS ARE SCATTERED AROUND THE ROOM.

D. R. IS A PIANO. THE KEYBOARD FACES THE D. R. CORNER. A CHANDELIER HANGS IN THE CENTER OF THE ROOM. CANDLES IN CANDLE STICKS ARE FOUND ON THE FIREPLACE MANTEL AND ON THE DESK SHELF.)

(AS THE SCENE OPENS, BARANOV'S DAUGHTER IRINA, AGE 10, AND A GERMAN GOVERNESS, GERTRUDE REINBOLDT, AGE 45, ARE AT THE PIANO. GERTRUDE IS STANDING OVER IRINA AS SHE PLAYS A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF A WAGNERIAN THEME. WHILE SHE IS PLAYING, A UNIFORMED GUARD APPEARS AT THE UPSTAGE LEFT WINDOW. THE GUARD LOOKS AROUND THE ROOM AND UP TOWARD THE STAIRCASE, THEN DISAPPEARS.)

Gertrude No Irina! No! No! No! It is not (SHE SINGS THE MISTAKE. THEN POINTS TO THE SHEET MUSIC) It is (SHE SINGS THE CORRECT MUSIC).

Irina Oh! Hmm. But I like it better this way.

Gertrude (THROWING UP HER HANDS) Oh Irina, for all your gentleness, there is a bit of your father in you.

Irina (LAUGHS) You're supposed to take that out of me remember?

Gertrude Your father doesn't know what he asks. Now try it again (SHE SPEAKS IN GERMAN) Und dies mal muss es richtig sein!

Irina Sie erlangen immer zu viel.

Gertrude Oh! Your German needs improving also!

Irina (LAUGHS) What did I say, Gertrude? Tell me! What did I say?

Gertrude You said, I always ACHIEVE too much. And that is what I don't seem to be doing.

Irina What should it be?

Gertrude It is "verlangen" not "erlangen." I DEMAND too much!

Irina Yes! I like it better YOUR way this time! (THEY BOTH LAUGH AS A KNOCK IS HEARD AT THE DOOR. IRINA RUNS AND OPENS IT.) Oh! Mr. Kuskov! Welcome to our castle! (SHE CURTSIES)

Kuskov (ENTERS, AMUSED) and what is all this about Irina?

Orina I'm practicing my lesson in manners.

Kuskov You know your lesson well.

Irina Have you met my governess, Mrs. Gertrude Reinboldt?

Kuskov Hello, Gertrude.

Gertrude Hello Mr. Kuskov.

Irina Oh no! You should say, "I haven't had the pleasure," or "I should be delighted."

Kuskov Irina, your father wanted to see me and I should be delighted to see him. Will you tell me where he is?

Irina He is in the back court yard with Antipatr and Mr. Purtov (SIGHS AS SHE RETURNS TO THE PIANO) They are fighting with swords.

Kuskov Well, maybe I came just in time to save a life! (STARTS TO CROSS TO THE U. R. DOOR AS THE SHADOW OF THE GUARD AGAINST THE WINDOW CATCHES HIS ATTENTION. HE STOPS, THEN SUDDENLY CROSSES TO THE WINDOW: LOOKS OUT, THEN RUNS TO THE DOOR U. L., UNBARS IT AND RUNS OUT.

Irina (GETS UP, RUNS TO THE DOOR D. L., AS KUSKOV RETURNS) What is it Mr. Kuskov?

Kuskov (BARS THE DOOR, AND CROSSES TO THE DOOR D. L.) I'll return later. Tell your father Captain Lozarev will be coming to see him! (HE DASHES OFF D. L.)

Irina What is the matter with him?

Gertrude Perhaps he saw Captain Lozarev. Hurry now and finish your lesson before your father gets back.

Irina Also gut! But Captain Lozarev wouldn't come that way.

Gertrude Hurry! (IRINA PLAYS THE LAST BIT OF THE COMPOSITION) Richtig! Good! (IRINA CLAPS HER HANDS AS A SHOUTING AND BANGING IS HEARD

OFF STAGE. AT THAT MOMENT ANTIPATR, NOW 15, AND PURTOV ARE SEEN DUELING. PURTOV IS USING AN AXE TO WARD OFF THE CUTLASS THRUSTS OF ANTIPATR, WHO IS BACKING HIM INTO THE ROOM THROUGH THE DOORWAY U. R. BEHIND ANTIPATR IS BARANOV, NOW COMPLETELY BALD, SHOUTING ENCOURAGEMENT TO HIS SON.)

Purtov Higher! You will never touch me!

Antipatr (HE LUNGES) There! (THE THRUST MISSES)

Purtov (LAUGHS) See!

Baranov Shoulder to him! Antipatr! Shoulder to him! (ANTIPATR TURNS HIS RIGHT SIDE MORE TOWARD PURTOV AND LUNGES AGAIN, HITTING THE AXE A HARD BLOW AND KNOCKING IT TO THE FLOOR. ANTIPATR PRESSES HIS ADVANTAGE, AND PUTS THE CUTLASS IN PURTOV'S RIBS.)

Irina (SHOUTS) Don't kill him Antipatr!

Antipatr Do you surrender? (HE BACKS PURTOV AGAINST THE DESK)

Purtov I surrender! I'm not ready to die! (BARANOV LAUGHS AND IRINA RUSHES ACROSS TO THEM CLAPPING HER HANDS AS KHLBNIKHOV ENTERS. D. L. AND LOOKS FOR A MOMENT AS THOUGH HE INTENDED LEAVING QUICKLY)

Antipatr (BRANDISHES HIS CUTLASS) Wait! you spy! You shall not leave this room! You have discovered the plot! You shall die also!

Khlebnikhov (LAUGHS AND PUTS HIS HANDS IN THE AIR) I am not ready to die either!

Baranov Enough! You must go back to your books! You have much to learn before you can go to St. Petersburg!

Purtov (POINTS TO HIS HEAD) a good fighter is a better fighter with something here!

Antipatr St. Petersburg, here I come! (HE MARCHES OUT)

Irina (CLAPS HER HANDS) He will be a beautiful Naval Officer!

Baranov (CROSSES TO THE DESK WIPING HIS BROW) Work with him whenever you can. If he is a good Naval Officer he must know how to fight.

Purtov He will know.

Irina Father, I want to go to St Petersburg with Antipatr.

Baranov Do you want to join the Navy too?

Irina I want to marry a beautiful Naval Officer.

Baranov (GRUNTS) They are not beautiful, and you are too young to think of that. You must become a lady first! (WHILE BARANOV IS SPEAKING, ANNA COMES DOWN STAIRS AND STANDS ON THE LANDING WATCHING. ON HER HEAD IS A SHAWL. SHE IS WEARING A FLOWERED SKIRT AND A SOLID COLOR BUTTONED BLOUSE. SHE IS PERCEPTIBLY OLDER AND SOMEWHAT STOOPED.)

Irina I am a lady NOW father. See! (SHE CROSSES TO KHLBNIKHOV AND CURTSIES) Sir, it is an honor to welcome you into our home. I'm sure you must be tired after your long journey. Would you like to bathe? (KHLBNIKHOV BEGINS TO LAUGH AND IRINA FINISHES IN A BURST OF LAUGHTER) Gertrude will show you to your bath!

Gertrude Irina! A lady would not say that.

Irina And I can play a piece now also! (SHE STARTS TOWARD THE PIANO)

Anna Irina! (SHE STARTS DOWN THE STEPS) you help pick berries now.

Irina (DISAPPOINTED) all right mother.

Anna You learn be a lady after you learn work. (SHE GOES OUT THE D. L. DOOR.)

Baranov You can play your piece for me tonight when I am tired.

Irina (CROSSES TO D. L. DOOR) All right, but you always fall asleep!
(SHE GOES OUT AS GERTRUDE STARTS TOWARD THE U. R. DOORWAY)

Baranov Gertrude (SHE TURNS) Is she learning her music?

Gertrude You can be proud of her, sir.

Baranov Hmm (HE CONTEMPLATES FOR A MOMENT) I'll determine that when I hear her play. All right?

Gertrude (SMILES) All right! (SHE STARTS AGAIN TOWARD THE DOORWAY U. R.)

Baranov (TURNS TO KRYLL, then looks around the room) Where is Ivan?

Kryll I thought he was here. He left the ship before I did.

Gertrude (AT THE DOORWAY U. R. TURNS) Oh sir, Mr. Kuskov came in. He asked where you were and when Irina told him, he dashed out that door. The he came back and went out that door. He said he would return later.

Baranov (SOMEWHAT BEFUDDLED) It sounds like he was mad! Is that all he said?

Gertrude Uh----- He said, Captain Lózarev was coming.

Baranov (LOOKS LIKE A THUNDER CLOUD. HE NODS AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO GERTRUDE, WHO LEAVES) Damn! I want Ivan to be here if that arrogant ass comes. (TO PURTOV) Igor, will you find him? He is probably at his ship.

Purtov All right, Alexander. (HE GOES OUT D. L.)

Baranov (CROSSES TO THE DESK, PULLS THE CHAIR BACK AND FUSSES WITH SOME PAPERS ON THE DESK) Naval Officers! Ahh! They are all heroes until they face drudgery and loneliness. Then they act like whimpering children! (CROSSES TO THE WINDOW U. S.) Did Ivan tell you how soon his ship would be loaded?

Khlebnikhov (CROSSING TO THE LANDING) He said it all depends on how soon he can get the supplies he needs from Captain Lozarev.

Baranov By God! (HE STARTS DOWN TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE ROOM) By God, he'll get those supplies tomorrow if I have to put that ship under arrest. (BARANOV LEANS OVER AND LOOKS DOWN THROUGH THE WINDOW, THEN MOTIONS TO KHLBNIKHOV.) Kryll, who is that man talking with the guard?

Kryll (CROSSES AND LOOK OUT THE WINDOW) I think his name is Lizchinski. He is one of the new group who came last fall on the "Suvarov."

Baranov He is not a guard, is he?

Kryll I don't think so.

Baranov Then he has no right to be on the cannon platform! (BARANOV IS ABOUT TO OPEN THE WINDOW TO SHOUT AT THE MAN WHEN THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR U. R.)

Kryll I'll open it. (KHLBNIKHOV GOES TO THE DOOR AND BARANOV TURNS TO SEE CAPTAIN LOZAREV ENTER. HE IS DRESSED IN FULL NAVAL UNIFORM AND IS WEARING HIS MEDALS AND SWORD. HIS MANNER IS POMPOUS AND ARROGANT. HE LOOKS AT THE ROOM CONTEMPTUOUSLY AND SWAGGERS ABOUT AS HE TALKS.)

Lozarev Your henchman, Kuskov came to my ship this morning with an idiotic story-----one that the Admiralty in St Petersburg would find most interesting. I thought it best to make certain of it before I report it to my superiors.

Baranov What did he tell you?

Lozarev -----that you were planning to seize my ship.

Baranov (LEANS OVER THE RAILING) That is exactly right!

Lozarev (LOSING HIS SWAGGER) You are insane!

Baranov (SEETHING, HE CROSSES DOWN TO LOZAREV) Captain, your ship is under orders to me! You have been anchored five months. During that time you have kept your ship idle, saying it needed repairs. You disobeyed every order I gave you! You sold your fur cargo to the Spanish without my authority. You refused to sail to the seal islands. And everytime you and your men have come ashore you have molested the native girls under my charge! Now sir, my patience is at an end! You have refused to unload your ship while Mr. Kuskov waits to load his supplies for California! Those supplies are consigned to this colony and I want them unloaded immediately. And when you've done that I want the company's furs and the dispatches taken aboard for shipment to Siberia. Do you understand, Captain?

Lozarev (CROSSES TO THE DOOR D. L. AND TURNS) Is that all?

Baranov Yes! --Unless you provoke me further!

Lozarev And if I do?

Baranov I bring charges against you!

Lozarev I wouldn't be too anxious to do that. Because if you do, I shall have you investigated and I don't think your record is pure enough to stand it. (SARCASTICALLY) Goodday SIR! (HE LEAVES).

Baranov (EXPLODES) God damn these Naval idiots! Since they whipped Napoleon, they act like gods. And now my son wants to be one of them.

Khlebnikhov I don't think he will be like that.

Baranov If he turned out like that, I would tie him to the stake and lash him with my own hands until he learned respect!

Khlebnikhov (CROSSES TO THE WINDOW) It looks like he's getting ready to unload.

Baranov Hmm! Good! But you better check the cargo, Kryll. I don't trust him. (HE CROSSES TO THE DESK, PICKS UP A LEDGER AS ANNA AND IRINA ENTER D. L.)

Irina (CARRIES THE BASKET TO BARANOV) Father, it is full!

Baranov That is good!

Irina Are you tired yet?

Baranov (SMILES PUTS HIS HAND ON HER HEAD) Not yet. Tonight.

Irina Father, a funny little man with a black mustache helped me pick berries.

Baranov (TURNS TO ANNA) Didn't I tell you not to go where the men are? Why did you do it?

Anna (TO IRINA) Go take berries to kitchen. Clean. Pick bugs and leaf out.

Irina But mother-----

Anna Go NOW! (IRINA GOES OUT U. R.) I do not go where men are. We pick berries where you say----near tower where guard watch us.

Baranov Who was this man?

Anna No know. Little man.

Baranov With a mustache?

Anna (NODS) He come from this way---here. I not see him right away. I come to her. He run away. Then we start come home. I see Mr. Kuskov talk with him.

Baranov Ivan?

Anna (NODS)

Baranov Where is Ivan?

Anna He go with man.

Baranov (CONTEMPLATES FOR A MOMENT) What did this man say to Irina?

Anna She say he talk about you. Ask where you sleep. Ask about house--

Baranov (. RISES, PACES BACK AND FORTH) He went with Ivan?

Anna Yes.

Baranov God damn! I want him. I sent Purtov after him. Now he doesn't
come back! Where is everyone? (CROSSES BACK TO THE DESK AND SITS
AS KHLEBNIKHOV BURSTS THROUGH THE DOOR)

Khlebnikhov Alexander! Captain Lozarev has pulled anchor. The "Suvarov" is
standing out to sea!

Baranov (RUNS TO THE LANDING, THROWS OPEN THE WINDOW AND SHOUTS) Guard!

Guard Yes, Sir!

Baranov Train every gun on that ship and get ready to fire!

Guard To fire!

Baranov You heard what I said!

Guard (PASSES THE ORDER TO THE GUNNERS) Uncover your guns and make
ready to fire on the Suvarov! (FARTHER AWAY THE ORDER IS REPEATED)

Baranov (TO KHLEBNIKHOV) Run to the ship, Kryll. Tell Lozarev I put his
ship under arrest!

Khlebnikhov Sir, he's too far out now to-----

Baranov (SCREAMS) Take a bidarka!

Khlebnikhov All right (HE GOES OUT)

Baranov (GOES BACK TO THE WINDOW AND SCREAMS OUT AT THE SHIP) I'll send
you to trial if I have to go to St Petersburg to do it! (TO THE
GUARD) Fire!

Guard (SHOUTS TO BARANOV) She's out of range.

Guard All right (GIVES THE ORDER) Fire One! (THE CANNON ROARS. BARANOV LEANS AGAINST THE CASEMENT, KNOWING IT IS USELESS) (TO THE GUARD)

Baranov Cover your guns!

Guard Yes Sir! (HE GIVES THE ORDER) Cover your guns! (THE ORDER IS AGAIN REPEATED FARTHER AWAY) (AT THIS MOMENT KUSKOV ENTERS D.L.)

Baranov (SHARPLY) Ivan! Why didn't you come back! I needed you! Where did----

Kuskov (ACTING STRANGELY) I'll explain in a moment. (HE GROSSES TO THE LANDING, CAUTIOUSLY LOOKS OUT THE WINDOW THEN HURRIES OUT THE DOORWAY U. R.)

Baranov What is the matter with you?

Kuskov (OFF STAGE) All right! Hurry! (INTO THE ROOM COMES PURTOV, PAUL, MAKARY, MOROTIN, MOLAKAR, AND RODIONOV. THEY ALL CARRY PISTOLS. WITH THEM IS A SMALL DARK MAN WITH A MUSTACHE WEARING ROUGH SEAMAN'S CLOTHING.)

Baranov What is it Ivan?

Kuskov This afternoon I came here. I started out that door when I saw one of the guards looking in the window. He had climbed the ladder to your balcony. I went to investigate and saw Lizchinski here talking with the guard. I followed him. He went to the other side of the tower and talked with Irina. When Anna saw him, he ran off. I stopped him and told him to explain what he was doing. (TURNS TO LIZCHINSKI) You tell him the rest.

Lizchinski I come here on "Suvarov" Popov and Corporal Naplavkov---they come too. All the way here they talk about running away to make new government. All winter they say how bad it is here. I did not

think it so bad, but they say Baranov beat and kill men when they disobey! I listen and I believe them. One day we meet in Popov's cabin. He say we make a revolution like Yankees, kill Baranov and all officers, then we capture Mr. Kuskov's ship when it is loaded for California---and we go to Easter Island, make new government and live free. More and more I don't like it. I tell them. They say I must go with them or they kill me. I can't stand it anymore. When Mr. Kuskov ask me, I tell him everything! I don't want to go with them. I want to stop them!

Baranov (COMPLETELY STUNNED) How far has this gone?

Kuskov I think they will try to carry out the plan tonight.

Baranov Tonight!

Kuskov Yes. They were afraid to try it as long as the "Suvarov" was here. But now she is gone. If Lizchinski tells Popov and the others that I intend to sail to St Paul tomorrow to get hunters and supplies, I think they will try it tonight.

Lizchinski The plan was for Corporal Naplavkov--he is the guard out there--to watch when you go to bed. He would signal to me. Then I would go to Popov's cabin where all the others wait. Then Naplavkov and another guard would climb the ladder to your house, kill you and your family while others kill Mr. Kuskov and capture his ship.

Baranov (CROSSES TO THE LANDING, LOOKS OUT CAUTIOUSLY, CROSSES DOWN TO KUSKOV) Ivan, how many men do you have?

Ivan I have alerted ten of my best men from the ship's crew.

Baranov (TO LIZCHINSKI) I'll give you vodka. Tell Popov you stole it.

Take it to Popov's cabin. Get them to drinking. Tell them Kuskov sails in the morning. Tell them you think we suspect something and that all may be lost if they do not strike tonight. (TO KUSKOV) Ivan, if the plan goes through, when Lizchinski gets the signal and goes to the cabin, you and your men break in and----- take them alive if you can. Rodionov, you go with Ivan. Paul, Makary, you guard the back entrance. Kryll, you and Morotin hide in this room. Igor, you and I will hide at the top of the stairs. (TO LIZCHINSKI) I will wait for an hour to give Popov's men time to get drunk. Then I'll walk upstairs with my light so the guard will see me. (TO LIZCHINSKI) I will give you the vodka now and you can leave by the back entrance. (BARANOV LOOKS AROUND AT ALL OF THEM) Do you all understand? (THEY NOD) I shall not forget your loyalty. (BARANOV STARTS TOWARDS THE DOOR U. R., AND THE OTHERS FOLLOW AS THE LIGHTS DIM TO BLACKOUT. IN 10 SECONDS THE LIGHTS DIM UP. BARANOV IS SEATED AT HIS DESK. ON THE DESK IS A BURNING CANDLE. BELOW THE LANDING, KHLEBNIKHOV AND MOROTIN ARE CROUCHED. PURTOV IS OUT OF SIGHT AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRCASE. BARANOV LOOKS AT HIS WATCH, TURNS TO MOROTIN AND KHLEBNIKHOV.) All right. Don't shoot unless you have to. Use your pistol as a club. (THEY NOD AND DRAW THEIR PISTOLS.) Let us hope our plan succeeds. (BARANOV CROSSES TO THE STAIRCASE, WALKS SLOWLY UP AND ACROSS THE LANDING, HOLDING THE CANDLE BELOW AND UPSTAGE OF HIS FACE. FOR FIFTEEN SECONDS AFTER HE HAS DISAPPEARED THERE IS NO SOUND. THEN A SLIGHT SOUND IS HEARD AS NAPLOVKOV AND THE OTHER GUARD COME UP THE LADDER AND LOOK THROUGH THE WINDOW.

Naplovkov (OPENS THE WINDOW AND WHISPERS TO THE OTHER GUARD) He has gone up.
(THEY CLIMB THROUGH THE WINDOW, NAPLOVKOV PEERS INTO THE DARKNESS OFF U. R.) He is in the big room at the far end. I can see a light burning under the door. We'll wait a moment till we can see better.

Guard (POINTING TO DOOR D. L.) Where does that door go?

Naplovkov That's the door to the balcony. You better unbar it. We may need to use it. (THE OTHER GUARD CROSSES DOWN TO THE D. L. DOOR, AND LIFTS THE BAR, WHILE NAPLOVKOV MOVES INTO THE DARKNESS U. R. AS THE OTHER GUARD REACHES THE DOOR, MOROTIN AND KHLEBNIKHOV CROSS BEHIND HIM. AS THE GUARD LIFTS THE BAR, KHLEBNIKHOV HITS HIM ON THE HEAD WITH HIS PISTOL. AS HE CRUMPLES TO THE FLOOR NAPLOVKOV TURNS, RAISING HIS PISTOL AS PURTOV MOVES OUT OF THE DARKNESS ABOVE AND HITS HIM OVER THE HEAD KNOCKING HIM OUT.)

Baranov (CALLS) Paul! Bring the light from the bedroom! (PAUL ENTERS ON THE LANDING FOLLOWED BY MARKARY AND ANTIPATR.) Tie them up! Igor, you and Kryll go to Ivan. He may need your help! (VOICES ARE HEARD OUTSIDE) Antipatr! Go back to the room! (THEY ALL BECOME TENSE AND READY FOR ACTION AS A KNOCK IS HEARD AT THE DOOR)
Who comes?

Kuskov (OFF STAGE) Ivan! (THEY RELAX AS KRYLL OPENS THE DOOR. KUSKOV, LIZCHINSKI AND RODIONOV ENTER) It is all over. They are all in the stockade. Our men are guarding them. (GIVES BARANOV A CHARRED SHEAF OF PAPERS) And here's the evidence, the entire plot with a list of all their names. They tried to burn these when we broke in. We pulled them out of the fire.

Baranov (LOOKS AT THE PAPERS FOR A MOMENT, WALKS SLOWLY TO THE BIG ARM CHAIR AND SITS. HE GLANCES AGAIN AT THE PAPERS, THEN AT KUSKOV)
Why?-----Why, Ivan?

Kuskov They were NEW men, Alexander, and they had no heart in the colony.

Baranov But they worked for me!

Kuskov They were none of the hunters.

Baranov My own men.

Kuskov (TRYING TO REACH BARANOV) They were none of US!

Baranov Why did they want to kill me? Did I not treat them all fairly?

Kuskov Yes, but I don't think this was meant----just for you.

Baranov Who else? I don't understand.

Kuskov These men were different. They had queer ideas about revolution. It says so in those papers.

Baranov I treated them fairly, didn't I?

Kuskov It wouldn't make any difference with those men.

Baranov (WAVES OFF KUSKOV'S REMARK) They must think I treated them unfairly.

Kuskov Alexander, it wasn't you they struck at! They believed they were not bound to be ruled by one man or any man.

Baranov Everybody must be ruled! (POINTS TO KUSKOV) You! (POINTS TO HIMSELF) I must be ruled! Everybody! Even the Tzar must answer to God!

Kuskov Yes, but these men didn't believe it. And they must be punished for their crime. They are traitors.

Baranov They are murderers! They tried to murder us! They shall be punished as murderers.

Kuskov (SIGHS) Yes. (REALIZES HE CAN NOT REACH BARANOV) Don't you think you should get some rest, Alexander?

Baranov (STARES UNSEEING FOR A MOMENT) Ivan. Will you tell Anna and the children to come-----here?

Kuskov Yes (GOES UP THE STAIRS AND DISAPPEARS OFF U. R.)

Baranov (TURNS TO THE OTHER MEN) I thank God you are all my friends. I will talk with you all tomorrow. (THEY ALL EXCHANGE GOODNIGHTS WITH BARANOV AND LEAVE AS KUSKOV, ANNA, IRINA AND ANTIPATR COME DOWN STAIRS.) Sit. (ANNA SITS ON A CHAIR BELOW AND RIGHT OF BARANOV. IRINA AND ANTIPATR SIT ON THE FLOOR. KUSKOV STARTS TO GO OFF D. L.) Wait. (KUSKOV STOPS) Will you stay in our house tonight, Ivan?

Kuskov All right. (HE SITS AT BARANOV'S DESK.)

Baranov Anna, you have never been happy here. I will not keep you longer. Tomorrow you must get ready to go to St Paul and take the children. Ivan can take you before he sails to California.

Irina But Father, I don't want to go.

Antipatr I don't either.

Baranov It is not safe here. Later if all is well, you can come back. In St Paul you can go to school to Father Herman.

Anna (JOYOUS OVER THE PROSPECT OF GOING BACK TO ST PAUL) I glad to see him. I glad to go to Father Herman Church.

Antipatr But when will I go to the Navy, Father?

Baranov Perhaps, if you study well, you can go next year. Now----go to bed. (THEY CROSS TO THE STAIR CASE TO GO UPSTAIRS.)

Irina (STOPS AT THE LANDING, GOES BACK TO BARANOV) you never heard my

piece, Father. You said when you were tired you would listen to my piece.

Baranov

(SMILES AS HE REACHES OUT AND PUTS AN ARM AROUND HER WAIST) I am tired, now. (IRINA GOES TO THE DESK, PICKS UP A CANDLE, CROSSES, PUTS IT ON TOP OF THE PIANO, SITS ON THE STOOL AND BEGINS TO PLAY. AS SHE PLAYS BARANOV'S EYES CLOSE AS THE LIGHTS DIM TO BLACKOUT AND THE CURTAIN CLOSES.)

Scene 2

(Sitka, early afternoon, November 1818)

(THE SETTING IS THE SAME AS SCENE 1, EXCEPT THAT HERE AND THERE ARE OBJECTS GIVEN TO BARANOV BY ALEUTS, INDIANS, AND TRADERS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. FLOWERS ARE SEEN IN VASES ON THE MANTEL, DESK SHELF, AND SMALL STAND NEAR THE LANDING. A LARGE WORLD GLOBE NOW STANDS BELOW BARANOV'S DESK.)

(AS THE SCENE OPENS, CAPTAIN HAGEMEISTER OF THE RUSSIAN NAVY IS SEEN PACING SLOWLY BACK AND FORTH NEAR CENTER STAGE.)

Hagemeister Have you looked thoroughly?

Khlebnikhov (EXASPERATED) Sir I've gone through every record. I've checked every account, and there is absolutely no evidence of Baranov's having any money in foreign banks!

Hagemeister I have reason to believe he has.

Khlebnikhov I don't understand why you continue this investigation month after month, Sir.

Hagemeister Baranov brought serious charges against Captain Lozarev.

Khlebnikhov I'm sure he deserved them, Sir.

Hagemeister During the trial, many witnesses came to Lozarev's defense.

Khlebnikhov Baranov's enemies?

Hagemeister Men he mistreated.

Khlebnikhov Sir, I've been with Baranov thirteen years, and I've never seen him mistreat anyone without cause.

Hagemeister Nevertheless, there were enough charges against Baranov's management to warrant this investigation.

Khlebnikhov Who came to Baranov's defense?

Hagemeister There were company officials and-----

Khlebnikhov Four thousand miles from the scene.

Hagemeister Mr. Khlebnikhov, I intend to continue this investigation until I am satisfied. I have known Captain Lozarev as a fellow officer for many years. I don't think he would have made false accusations. He is a man of honor.

Khlebnikhov Sir, I don't think a man of honor would steal another man's wife, keep her all night, then send her home when he had done with her.

Hagemeister And who said that?

Khlebnikhov The woman who bore his son.

Hagemeister I know nothing of it.

Khlebnikhov Then there must have been evidence omitted at the trial.

Hagemeister It was an impartial trial.

Khlebnikhov Sir, how did the court receive Lozarev's selling our cargo of seal skins to the Spanish without authority---60,000 rubles worth?

Hagemeister He sold a few bear skins.

Khlebnikhov That's easy to say Sir, since there was no bill of sale. But there are men here from Lozarev's crew who helped load the skins--- and they were seal.

Hagemeister (ANGRY) Mr. Khlebnikhov, I would advise you to continue the audit of Baranov's accounts without further argument.

Khlebnikhov Since the company has ordered it, I shall do it sir. But I can not not probe into his private accounts.

Hagemeister Where does he keep them?

Khlebnikhov (POINTING TOWARD THE STAIRCASE) In his room.

Hagemeister When will your audit be completed?

Khlebnikhov Tomorrow Sir,

Hagemeister (CROSSES TO DOOR D. L.) I shall return the, (HE GOES OUT)

Khlebnikhov (IN THE MANNER OF BARANOV) Damn you SIR! (CROSSES TO THE WINDOW
LOOKS OUT AS IRINA, NOW A BEAUTIFUL GIRL OF 17, ENTERS D. L.
WITH LT. YANOVSKY, FIRST OFFICER FOR CAPTAIN HAGEMEISTER)

Irina (SEEING KHLBNIKHOV) Hello Kryll.

Khlebnikhov (WITH HIS HANDS BEHIND HIS BACK IN THE MANNER OF BARANOV, TURNS,
REFLECTING HIS IRRITATION WITH HAGEMEISTER) Hello Irina---It.
Yanovsky.

Yanovsky Hello Mr. Khlebnikhov.

Irina (REMOVING A SHOULDER SHAWL WITH YANOVSKY'S ASSISTANCE) Kryll,
what is the matter? You look just like father, when he is angry.

Khlebnikhov (CROSSING DOWN TO HER) I feel just like that too. (CROSSES TO DOOR
D. L.) and not fit company for people in love. If you will excuse
me I'll-----

Irina Kryll. (LOOKS UP TOWARD THE STAIRCASE) Is father feeling worse?

Khlebnikhov No. I think he's better today. He is still asleep.

Yanovsky Sir, my captain just left here and-----

Khlebnikhov Yes.

Yanovsky He stopped me and asked me to do something I can't do. (KHLBNIKHOV
TURNS FROM THE DOOR AND CROSSES TO YANOVSKY) He wanted me to find
a way---(LOOKS AT IRINA) to check your father's records.

Khlebnikhov I don't want to offend you sir, but I think your Captain is making
a mistake. The Governor will not turn his books over to anyone
except the new governor.

Yanovsky (TURNS TO IRINA) Dear, I must tell you and Mr. Khlebnikhov something that should have been said five months ago.

Khlebnikhov (MOTIONING TO CHAIRS) Let us sit. (THEY CROSS TOWARD THE DESK. KHLEBNIKHOV PULLS THE CHAIR OUT FROM THE DESK. YANOVSKY SEATS IRINA TO THE RIGHT OF THE BIG ARM CHAIR, THEN SEATS HIMSELF IN THE ARM CHAIR.)

Yanovsky After the trial of Captain Lozarev, Captain Hagemeister was given the authority (TO IRINA) to relieve your father as governor.

Khlebnikhov (SHOCKED AND ANGERED) Do you mean to say, he has that authority now?

Yanovsky Yes.

Irina Why-----Why has he never spoken? My father has asked to be relieved for five years. He doesn't want to continue! He's too ill!

Yanovsky I know.

Khlebnikhov Hagemeister denied that he had that authority when he started the investigation.

Yanovsky I-----I know. You see-----there were so many accusations and charges at the trial that the government was persuaded to believe that Governor Baranov was misappropriating the company funds.

Irina (ALMOST IN TEARS, RISES WALKS AWAY)

Khlebnikhov (BITTERLY) Who did the persuading-----the Navy?

Yanovsky (HESITATES) Yes.

Khlebnikhov Without a soul to defend him!

Irina (TURNING TO YANOVSKY) Why didn't Captain Hagemeister tell Father he came to relieve him?. He would have been so happy. He would

have given up his records. He has nothing to hide.

Yanovsky I asked Captain Hagemeister why he didn't tell your father. All he would say is "I have my reasons."

Khlebnikhov He was afraid the Governor would destroy the evidence of his corruption! Is that it?

Yanovsky I-----I think so.

Irina (CROSSES TO YANOVSKY) Simeon, don't let this go on. It will kill my father.

Khlebnikhov (RISES AND CROSSES TO THE DOOR D. L.) Lieutenant, Governor Baranov is not well. I would advise waiting no longer to tell him he is relieved. It is much too late already.

Yanovsky I shall talk with him tonight. (KHLEBNIKHOV GOES OUT)

Irina If Captain Hagemeister had been honest, father would have been so happy to cooperate.

Yanovsky My darling, I did not want this from the beginning, and since I have found you, I knew I could not let it go longer.

Irina You will talk with Captain Hagemeister?

Yanovsky I will tonight, but first ----I must see your father.(SHE CROSSES TO HIM. HE TAKES HER HANDS IN BOTH OF HIS.) I hope he will grant his consent.

Irina (SITS AT HIS FEET) He will. He likes you.

Yanovsky Are you sure Irina? I've been here five months now, and I still don't know.

Irina Last night he called me to his room and said "Irina, are you interested in that young man?" I told him I was more interested in you than any man I have ever known.

Yanovsky What did he say?

Irina (IMITATING BARANOV) He said "Hum!"

Yanovsky Is that all?

Irina (LAUGHS) No. He said, "Is that young man interested in you?"
And I told him you were very interested in me. Then he said,
"I hope Antipatr turns out like that young man."

Yanovsky My dearest, little did I think that when I came here, I would
fall in love with you; and, what is even more amazing, that I
would find your simple faith so beautiful, I would want it for
myself.

Irina I had some help for that.

Yanovsky Yes. I was nearly convinced before I visited St Paul. And after
I listened to Father Herman, I knew you were right. He argued
so quietly and convincingly, I could not resist.
(THERE IS A NOISE UPSTAIRS)

Irina (RISING) That is father now. Are you ready?

Yanovsky (ADJUSTING HIS UNIFORM AND SWALLOWING) I-----think so.

Baranov (FROM UPSTAIRS) Irina!

Irina (KISSES YANOVSKY) Yes Father! (SHE GOES UP THE STAIRS AS
YANOVSKY PACES DOWN CENTER ADJUSTING HIS UNIFORM AND CLEARING
HIS THROAT.)

Baranov (COMES DOWN THE STAIRS. HE IS HELPED BY IRINA. HIS MOVEMENTS
ARE NOW THOSE OF AN OLD MAN, UNSURE AND SLOW. HIS HEARING IS
SOMEWHAT IMPAIRED, AND OCCASIONALLY HE SQUINTS WHEN HE TALKS, A
HABIT BORN OF YEARS OF TRAVELING AND HUNTING ON THE SEA UNDER THE
GLARE OF THE SUN. HIS BODY IS WRACKED WITH ARTHRITIS, CAUSING

HIM TO FAVOR HIS RIGHT ARM AND SHOULDER. HE REACHES THE MAIN FLOOR, BRUSHES IRINA ASIDE WHEN HE SEES YANOVSKY, STRAIGHTENS UP A BIT AND WALKS TO HIS ARM CHAIR AS IRINA CROSSES U. R. TURNS, MEETS THE EYES OF HER LOVER FOR A MOMENT AND GOES OUT.)

Well----Well---- Young man, Irina tells me you wanted to see me.

Yanovsky (STANDS DOWN CENTER AND STARTS TO SPEAK) Yes, Sir. You see Sir, I--well-- when I first--

Baranov (ENJOYING THE SITUATION AND DESIRING TO TEASE A BIT, SPEAKS GRUFFLY) Come closer! And speak up! (YANOVSKY CROSSES BELOW AND RIGHT OF BARANOV) What is it?

Yanovsky Sir, for several months, I---- have been in love with Irina---- and----I have thought it over carefully----I earn 4000 rubles yearly. I come of honest parents-----

Baranov (INTERRUPTING SHARPLY) Young man, my daughter has told me all that. What do you want to ask me?

Yanovsky (ABRUPTLY) I want to marry Irina!

Baranov Hmm! (STUDIES YANOVSKY FOR A MOMENT) Will you be kind to her?

Yanovsky (HIS COURAGE HIGH) Sir, I will devote my life to her happiness. May God strike my life from me if I am ever unkind to her.

Baranov If you are sir, I should be happy to give God some help!

Yanovsky Do I have your consent Sir!

Baranov (SOFTENING) My son, not even seeing my homeland could give me as much joy. You have my consent---and my blessing, Simeon Ivanich.

Yanovsky (CROSSES TO BARANOV AND SHAKES HIS HAND) Thank you sir!

Baranov Irina! (TO YANOVSKY) We must drink to this important occasion!

Irina (ENTERING FROM U. R.) Yes Father?

Baranov (TAKES FROM HIS WATCH CHAIN A SMALL KEY AND GIVES IT TO HER.)
Since you were a little girl, you always wanted to open the old chest in my room.

Irina Yes!

Baranov Go open it now, and bring the little skin bag and the bottle of wine. (IRINA SMILES AND HURRIES UP THE STAIRS) (TO YANOVSKY)
Irina tells me you have become a Christian.

Yanovsky Yes sir! It was Irina's faith----and Father Herman.

Baranov (SMILES) It is hard to resist him isn't it?

Yanovsky Yes sir. I tried.

Baranov (CHUCKLES) So did I. (IRINA RETURNS WITH THE SKIN BAG AND THE WINE. BARANOV TAKES THE SKIN BAG) Open the wine and pour three glasses. (IRINA GOES OUT.) Twenty seven years ago, I was washed ashore in Three Saints Bay. A small seaman's chest was all I had with me. In it I have kept----gifts from my friends. That bottle is the last of a gift of rare wine from Nikolai Rezanov. He brought it from California the year he died! (IRINA COMES IN WITH THE GLASSES ON A TRAY. BARANOV AND YANOVSKY TAKE THEIR GLASSES. IRINA PUTS THE TRAY ON THE LITTLE STAND U. C. AND RETURNS WITH HER GLASS.) I wish Ivan were here. He should drink with us. (YANOVSKY AND IRINA SIT ON BOTH SIDES OF BARANOV)

Irina When will he come, Father?

Baranov (CHUCKLES) When he conquers California! (BARANOV RAISES HIS GLASS) You have made me happy this day. Now---I drink to your everlasting joy and the joy of your children in the name of God.

(THEY CLICK THEIR GLASSES AND DRINK. BARANOV REACHES INTO THE SKIN BAG AND PULLS OUT A PENDANT ON A CHAIN.)

Irina (EXCITED) The gift of my Grandfather! Oh--

Baranov (GIVES IT TO HER) Yes. Chief Razkashikov gave it to your mother, and she put it on my neck when she became---my wife. (IRINA FONDLES IT, RISES, CROSSES TO YANOVSKY WHO RISES ALSO. SHE PLACES IT ON HIS NECK. THEY EMBRACE.) Hmm! (TO IRINA) Your mother danced for me when she gave me that. I think it only appropriate that you should play a piece for Simeon.

Irina (LAUGHS AND KISSES HER FATHER ON THE FOREHEAD) All right father. (SHE CROSSES TO THE PIANO AND PLAYS THE SAME COMPOSITION SHE LEARNED AS A CHILD IN SCENE 1. NOW HOWEVER IT IS MATURELY PLAYED. AS SHE PLAYS, BARANOV'S EYES GROW HEAVY AND HE FALLS ASLEEP AS THE LIGHTS DIM TO BLACKOUT AND THE CURTAIN CLOSES.)

Scene 3

(The next day, late afternoon)

(KRYLL KHLEBNIKHOV IS SEATED AT THE DESK WRITING IN A LEDGER. CAPTAIN HAGEMEISTER IS STANDING NEAR THE DESK LOOKING AT THE BOOKS ON THE SHELVES. LT. YANOVSKY IS STANDING NEAR THE PIANO.)

Hagemeister How often does Mr. Kuskov make the trip from California?

Khlebnikhov Once a year sir.

Hagemeister What does he bring?

Khlebnikhov Wheat, barley, skins----and some vegetables they raise.

Irina (COMES FROM UPSTAIRS DOWN TO THE LANDING) He will come down in just a moment sir.

Hagemeister Thank you (YANOVSKY AND IRINA EXCHANGE GLANCES AND IRINA GOES BACK UP THE STAIRS.) When will he arrive?

Khlebnikhov His ship should be coming any day now.

Hagemeister (PULLING A BOOK FROM THE SHELF) How did Baranov acquire such a large library?

Khlebnikhov It was started by Nikolai Rezanov. Other books were given to him by ship captains.

Baranov (ASSISTED BY IRINA, APPEARS ON THE LANDING DRESSED IN HIS BEST CLOTHING AND WEARING THE MEDALS AWARDED TO HIM BY THE TZAR.) Welcome to our house again Captain. It has been long---since we had a visit. (TO IRINA, AS HE COMES DOWN THE MAIN FLOOR) Irina, we should celebrate. Tell Ivan, we'll have a praznic!

Irina Father, Ivan has not come back from California.

Baranov Hmm! He's had time enough to do his business. He should be here to celebrate! (IRINA HELPS HIM TO THE ARM CHAIR AND CROSSES TO

Yanovsky D. R.) Irina, tell everyone---we will have a celebration.

Hagemeister (CROSSES BELOW AND TO THE LEFT OF BARANOV) Sir, I must decline the celebration. I've come to talk with you---

Baranov Is your ship leaving?

Hagemeister No, it is not leaving but----

Baranov Then you shall celebrate with us!

Hagemeister (BECOMING IRRITATED) Sir, I didn't come to celebrate, I came to talk about the transfer of the management of the colony.

Baranov Hmm! I've been talking about that for five years. Every year I ask them to send a new manager, but he never comes. They sent old Commander Koch. He died at Kamchatka. Then they sent Bornovolokov. He was ship-wrecked. So, I still wait for the new manager. And, do you know----

Hagemeister (EXASPERATED) Mr. Baranov, I am here to relieve you as governor of the colony. I want your records and all company funds turned over immediately!

Baranov (PEERS AT HIM FOR A MOMENT) My records? You? (LAUGHS) You have been here all winter. You just can't say I want to be governor now and---

Hagemeister (PULLING FROM INSIDE HIS COAT A FOLDED DOCUMENT AND THRUSTING IT IN BARANOV'S FACE) There is my authority to relieve you!

Baranov (TAKES THE PAPERS AND LOOKS AT HAGEMEISTER STILL UNBELIEVING AS HE FUMBLES IN HIS VEST POCKET FOR HIS GLASSES) Irina! (IRINA CROSSES TO HIM REACHES IN ONE OF HIS POCKETS GETS HIS GLASSES. HE PUTS THEM ON AND BEGINS TO READ WHILE IRINA STANDS NEAR HIM. AFTER A MOMENT HIS EYES LEAVE THE PAPER. HE IS DAZED BY THE SHOCK.

WITHOUT LOOKING UP HE SPEAKS.) You---You were prying all winter.
 (MOTIONS TO KHLEBNIKHOV) Kryll. (KHLEBNIKHOV CROSSES TO HIM.
 YANOVSKY CROSSES NEAR IRINA) Kryll isn't that right? He was
 prying.

Khlebnikhov (LOOKS AT HAGEMEISTER) Yes, Alexander.

Baranov Captain Lozarev, you kept your promise. (LOOKS AT HAGEMEISTER)
 Did they tell you I was a thief? (HE STRUGGLES TO RISE. IRINA AND
 KHLEBNIKHOV HELP HIM UP. THE PAPERS FALL TO THE FLOOR. KHLEBNIKHOV
 PICKS THEM UP AND GIVES THEM TO HAGEMEISTER. IRINA ASSISTS HIM TO
 THE STAIRCASE. HE PUSHES HER ARM AWAY AND TURNS.) I used to ask
 myself----- What is my reward for using up all of my life out here.
 And I used to tell myself it was the faith of my emperor and my
 company. (HE LOOKS DOWN AT THE FLOOR AS THOUGH HE WOULD FIND THERE
 AN ANSWER) It looks like I must find another reason. (LOOKS AT
 HAGEMEISTER) I shall get my records sir. (STARTS TO GO UP THE STEPS
 AND TURNS AGAIN AND LOOKS AT KHLEBNIKHOV) Ivan! Tell them your
 ship is leaving in the morning. They will try it tonight! (TO IRINA)
 You come with me. The rest of you hide down here. (HE STARTS UP THE
 STAIRS AND FALLS.)

Irina (SOBS) Father! (YANOVSKY RUNS TO HER, THEY LIFT HIM UP AND HELP
 HIM UP TO HIS ROOM)

Baranov (BABBLES AS THEY TAKE HIM TO HIS ROOM) -----Ivan-----you take
 your men----tell them not to shoot. I will send Anna to St. Paul.
 It isn't safe here-----.

Khlebnikhov (TURNS TOWARD HAGEMEISTER ANGERED TO TEARS.) I have never spoken
 disrespectfully to a superior in my life, but I fear I may do so

now. That man you sent to his sick bed never knew what avarice was. He never hoarded a penny in his life. You suspected him of putting money in foreign banks! I'll tell you what he's done with it. He has paid half of Kuskov's salary and provided for his mother. Banner, in St Paul, has lived off Baranov ever since he came to the colony. He sent Purtov's son to school in Russia and gave Purtov a pension out of his own salary. Nine hunters here are receiving half their pay from his shares in the company. When Commander Koch died on the way out here he sent money to take care of his family. (YANOVSKY COMES DOWN STAIRS AND STOPS ON THE LOWER LANDING. ALMOST IN TEARS, KHLEBNIKHOV CROSSES TO THE DESK, PICKS UP THE BIG LEDGER HE WAS WORKING ON PREVIOUSLY AND CROSSES TO HAGEMEISTER) You asked me two months ago to audit the fur accounts. Well I did--- 28 years of them dealing with more millions of rubles than you'll ever see! That little man kept his accounts on wrapping paper when he didn't have a ledger,----and do you know how many errors I found? None! Do you hear that? Not one! And now that he's old and sick, you insult and humiliate him with the most ungrateful and inhuman act I have ever seen. Well sir, in removing him, you have removed me, for I do not choose to work for you! And when the hunters find out what you've done they won't either! (SHOVES THE LEDGER INTO HAGEMEISTER'S HANDS.) There is a clean record for you---to begin with! (HE TURNS AND GOES UP THE STAIRS. HAGEMEISTER STANDS LOOKING AFTER HIM FOR A MOMENT, CROSSES PUTS THE LEDGER DOWN ON THE DESK, LEANS ON IT, THEN TURNS TO YANOVSKY.)

Hagemeister You asked me for my permission to marry Baranov's daughter.

Yanovsky (COOLY) I did, sir.

Hagemeister I'll grant it on one condition, that you agree to stay here and manage the colony for two years. (HE CROSSES TO THE DOOR D. L.)

Yanovsky (UNPREPARED FOR THIS ANNOUNCEMENT) As Governor?

Hagemeister As Governor. (HE GOES OUT)

Yanovsky (STILL DUMBFUNDED, STARES AT THE DOOR D. L. THEN SLOWLY TURNS WALKS TO THE STAIRCASE, LOOKS UP, LISTENS FOR A MOMENT, THEN CROSSES BACK TO THE DESK, PICKS UP THE LEDGER, SITS IN THE BIG ARM CHAIR AND BEGINS SLOWLY TO TURN THE PAGES AS THE CURTAIN CLOSES.)

Scene 4

(the same as scene 3, a late afternoon in December 1818)

(AS THE SCENE OPENS KHLBNIKHOV IS SEATED AT THE DESK. KUSKOV IS STANDING RIGHT OF THE DESK. THROUGH THE WINDOW U. S., A SHIP CAN BE SEEN IN THE HARBOR. SNOW IS FALLING PAST THE WINDOW)

Kuskov How did she persuade him to go back to Russia?

Khlebnikhov It wasn't just Irina. She got Yanovsky to urge him to go back by telling him he could be useful to the directors of the colony.

Kuskov What can I do for him?

Khlebnikhov I don't know, Ivan. I've tried. I wanted him to go to St. Paul.

Kuskov To see Anna?

Khlebnikhov Yes, but he has no desire. (rises) Three months ago he was destroyed. I fear he is too old and too ill to recover.

Kuskov He was like this when Richard died and he-----

Khlebnikhov He was younger then, and his mind was alert. He had a job to do. Now he hasn't. His mind is sick. He doesn't recognize people.

Kuskov I know. He doesn't even realize I'm here. He keeps asking me about California and when I'm coming back.

(LOOKS AT HIS WATCH) What time does his ship leave?

Khlebnikhov At 4:00 on the high tide.

Kuskov It's nearly that now.

Khlebnikhov He doesn't even realize he's sailing home.

Kuskov I should have put someone in charge in California and stayed with him.

Khlebnikhov (SHAKES HIS HEAD) Don't take the blame upon yourself, Ivan. Hagemeister can be given full credit for what happened.

Kuskov If I could only get through to him---just make him listen to me.

Khlebnikhov (RISES, CROSSES D. C.) That's it. If someone could just reach him long enough to make him understand what he has meant to this land---to all of us, he might go home in peace. Now, he feels his life here was completely without purpose.

Yanovsky (ENTERS D. L. HE IS WEARING A NAVY GREAT COAT. HE REMOVES IT, SHAKES THE SNOW OFF IT, AND PUTS IT WITH HIS HAT ON THE BIG ARM CHAIR.) Hello Kryll---Ivan.

Khlebnikhov Hello Simeon.

Kuskov Hello.

Yanovsky His cabin is ready. His things are loaded. (THEY LOOK AT EACH OTHER, BUT THEY CAN FIND NO WORDS TO EXPRESS THEIR FEELINGS.)

Yanovsky (CROSSES TO THE STAIRCASE) Is Irina-----

Khlebnikhov She is with him.

Yanovsky (HATING TO GO THROUGH WITH IT) I'll----go up and get him. (HE GOES UPSTAIRS AS A KNOCK IS HEARD AT THE FOOR D. L.)

Kuskov (CROSSES AND OPENS IT) Hello Igor, Paul.

Purtov (STEPS INSIDE. HE IS CARRYING A LARGE BOTTLE PACKED IN STRAW. ON IT TIED WITH A RIBBON IS A CARD) We----that is all of us here, we got a gift for Alexander. And Paul here wrote all our names on a card. We came----to give it to Alexander. It is vodka.

Kuskov (LOOKS AT THE STAIRCASE THEN AT PURTOV) Tell them to come in Igor. (PURTOV MOTIONS THEM IN. INTO THE ROOM COMES ALL OF BARANOV'S OLD HUNTERS, THREE ALEUT MEN AND THREE BOYS. THEY NEARLY FILL THE ROOM. AT THIS MOMENT, BARANOV APPEARS ON THE LANDING. HE IS WEARING A LARGE BLACK GREAT COAT LIKE A CAPE.

HE WALKS HALF WAY ACROSS THE LANDING WHEN SUDDENLY HE BECOMES CONSCIOUS OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE ROOM. HE STOPS AND HIS EYES SEEM TO BE SEARCHING THEIR FACES. THEN HE SEES IVAN AT THE FOOT OF THE STEPS AND A LOOK OF RECOGNITION COMES OVER HIS FACE. AT THIS POINT, THE SNOW STOPS FALLING AND THE LATE SUN STARTS TO COME OUT.)

Baranov (AMOST IN A WHISPER) Ivan.

Kuskov (CLIMBS THE STAIRS AND EMBRACES THE OLD MAN)

Baranov Who-----Who are all these people?

Kuskov These are your old hunters. These are your friends. (BARANOV PEERS AGAIN INTO THEIR FACES)

Khlebnikhov This is your reward, Alexander. (PURTOV CROSSES TO HIM AND GIVES HIM THE BOTTLE. HE TAKES IT IN HIS HANDS, LOOKS AT IT AND THEN AT PURTOV. SUDDENLY, HIS FACE LIGHTS UP WITH JOY AS HE LOOKS OUT AND BEGINS TO RECOGNIZE THE FAITHFUL FRIENDS HE HAS KNOWN FOR SO LONG.

Baranov (SOFTLY) Igor-----Paul-----Makary----- AT THIS MOMENT, THE BELL FOR DEPARTURE IS HEARD RINGING. FROM A DISTANCE IS HEARD THE SONG THE HUNTERS SANG WHEN DELAROV WENT HOME 28 YEARS BEFORE. AT THIS POINT THE LIGHTS BEGIN TO DIM OUT AS BARANOV STRAIGHTENS HIMSELF, AND WALKS TOWARD THE STAIRS. THE LIGHTS DIM COMPLETELY OUT ON THE STAGE AS HE STARTS DOWN THE STAIRS. ONLY THE GLOW OF THE SETTING SUN CAN BE SEEN AS IT CATCHES THE WHITE SAILS OF THE SHIP IN THE HARBOR. THEN THE SUN'S GLOW DISAPPEARS AS THE CURTAIN CLOSSES.

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