

LEGARDEUR enters through the door brushing the snow off his jacket.

LEGARDEUR

Gentlemen, forgive my tardiness I have much business to conduct in continuing the affairs of the Fort.

WASHINGTON

Good eve Commandant Legardeur, I also have much business to attend to.

GIST

Sir, glad ye could join us.

Legardeur gets settled and takes off his coat.

WASHINGTON

Which brings me to the letter of remonstrance from the Governor. Have ye a reply for us?

LEGARDEUR

It must have been a treacherous journey to come here in the dead of winter.

GIST

Aye, and I fear it will be worse going back.

WASHINGTON

Commandant, we have been here all eve, and I...

LEGARDEUR

Yes, Major, I have considered the letter. I have considered it to be quite bold considering the French have laid claim to this land, and in no uncertain terms, Major Washington...
(passing a letter of response to him)
It is our absolute design to take possession of the Ohio Valley.