

VOYAGEUR DIALOGUE

PRIEST:

'Ti Jean! You'll be late for your own funeral! Madeleine, pull up your stockings! Mon Dieu! Catherine where is your bonnet? Don't you know people will be looking at you? (*ALBERT moves forward, the worse for wear*) Albert, straighten your tie! This is a Christmas party not a poker party.

ALBERT

Oui, oui mon pere, but it *is* party time so go easy on us eh?

GASTON

Yeah, yeah, we need your *spiritual* guidance.

PRIEST

Eh?

GASTON

We have a lot of spirits to drink.

Laughter

PRIEST

Attempting to cover the ears of the children

Shhhhh! Gaston, someday your mouth is going to get you into a lot of trouble!

Alors mes enfants - un, deux, trios.....

WOMAN

Ça va Gaston? Save the last dance for me.

GASTON

I will...I will! I bet you can dance like the devil

PRIEST

Language, Gaston!

GASTON

Give the Devil his due, mon père, he knows how to dance. I bet the parties are good in hell.

PRIEST

Gaston!

GASTON

I bet the liquor's good too!

Climbing on to a chair

I raise my glass to him. *LE DIABLE!*

TI JEAN:

Eh, Albert, you know how much the Company is paying for beaver pelts this year?

ALBERT

For beaver? Same as always.....fifty cents? (*Ti Jean shakes his head*) A dollar? (*another shake*) More?

TI JEAN

Two dollars!

(other men have heard and come forward)

PIERRE

Two dollars? Two dollars for each pelt?

GASTON

Yes, it's true.

TI JEAN

Mon dieu....it is worth pursuing, no?

ALBERT

Mon ami, it is worth pursuing.....YES!

GASTON

Bien! Tomorrow morning, Andre and I are starting work on the big canoe at Jacques' place. If the beaver are breeding like he says, by next Christmas we'll put new hats on a thousand Englishmen. Who wants to join us and be a *voyageur*?

MEN

I'll go. / Count me in. / But of course! / etc.

ALBERT

Another New Year! I thought you said we'd be rich men by now, and back home drinking toasts and dancing. Dancing! The only dancing around here is Ti-Jean trying to keep his feet warm.

GASTON

Merde!

TI-JEAN

If we could only be back in Trois Rivières. I can see it now, the food, the drink, the dancing – Isabelle. Marie.

PIERRE

Helene.....

JACQUE

Catherine.....

ANDRE

Carole.....

HENRI

Francoise.....

GASTON

Ah, Francoise.....La belle Francoise!