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## Letter from J.S. Leamon to Charlotte Michaud

J. S. Leamon

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To: Miss Charlotte Michaud  
From: J.S. Leamon  
Subject: French-Canadians in Lewiston - part II

What you have written is once again very interesting and in some cases very amusing - imagine a young girl wearing nothing but blue for her first fourteen years !

I have two types of comments: one regarding content, other regarding form

Content: I feel that you SHOULD mention the French love of ~~alcohol~~ alcohol (never could spell that word !) What you write is sufficiently general so that I doubt if many will take offense. I would suggest such a paragraph might go on page 2 second paragraph along with that part of the paper in which you discuss French morality. It is interesting to me that while the Franco-Americans shared the rather strict Victorian morality of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, they did not share the prohibitionist sentiment of the times and were so notorious for this.

page 3: paragraph 4 - would it not be instructive to indicate here when the first French mayor was elected, who he was and a little bit about him? And this leads to my last comment: *Charles Lemaire?*

Finally, I have always had the impression that the French-Canadians have had to fight their way up socially, economically, and politically against some pretty stiff discrimination at the hands of the Irish and esp. the English Protestants who controlled the "system." Do you feel this was the case or not? Either way I think it might be worth a comment from you and some illustrations to back it up.

Form:

P. 1, line 4 "from all pleasures" seems awfully extreme even for an adult for an



entire year - indeed, is it possible to abstain from ALL pleasures?

Second paragraph, third line: Sentence begins, "It kept ... ." The "IT" refers to what - the blessing? But logically it seems to refer to the New Year's Day celebrations -plural.

p. 2 second paragraph, sentence that begins: "However, they learned ... ." It isn't clear here you mean their non-French contemporaries. It seems to me that it might be more clear if you simply stated that despite the apparent cultural and even physical isolation of the French, they gradually intermingled with their English-speaking contemporaries (or fellow citizens)- sometimes with humorous results -

page 2, last paragraph I would recommend be placed next to last and the next to last (the one referring to names) be placed last. Then the two page insert tends to follow more logically

page 2 insert - Question: Roy dit Desjardins (does this mean in English Roy so-called Desjardins? and if so, might it be useful to indicate it?)

Please do not let my observations give the impression I do not enjoy your article. I like it very much and learned much in reading it. Just as I felt free to suggest some minor alterations, I know you will be equally free in accepting or rejecting them. Thank you for the opportunity to read your work. I look forward to seeing you soon.