

Draft letter from John A. Thomson to Elizur Goodrich [typescript]

\$45. for this, I rec'd 3 small boxes, the one with Grafts, owing to the long voyage were injur'd & of little or no value, I made no use of these. the box with the Rohan potato, about 8 inches by 18 & contain'd just 15 very moderate sized potatoes, very much sprout'd & sprouted, put up in a bed of moss. I planted them the first day of June, 4 feet apart each way, in good garden soil, were hoed three times, & notwithstanding the shortness of season & the extreme drought with us, of the summer of 1837, & the tops being partially eaten off by a ~~few~~ ^{few} ~~worms~~ in August which broke into my garden, my produce from the 15 potatoes, was in the proportion of 40 bushels to one bushel. you will please excuse me for troubling you with all these particulars of my importing this potato, as you will perceive my object in part, is to establish the claim mentioned, which I admit is no small qualification in me all the profit I may reap from the sale of the few bushels I have to dispose off, can of course be no great object, & from the knowledge I now have of this potato, should be perfectly satisfy'd to pay all they have cost me, for my own use only, & have no doubt of the correctness, given originally of the productiveness, weight & superiority of this Potato, except as to weight, I do not think they will arrive at the weight mentioned in France, viz. 14 lb. our season of vegetation I believe is not as long as theirs, mine were growing very thrifely, the first of Oct^r when the frost killed the vines, perhaps some way not on trial estimate them as highly as myself & may be somewhat disappointed as full success, like other varieties of potato, must depend no doubt on season, soil & mode of cultivation & something for

Page two of a typed copy of a draft letter written by John A. Thomson to Elizur Goodrich containing detailed information regarding the cultivation of the Rohan potato on Thomson's Catskill farm. Thomson was a well-known cultivator of that species of potato.

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