

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

Catskill Dec<sup>r</sup> 20 1837

Dear Sir

Your favor of the 19<sup>th</sup> was rec'd last evening. you enquire at what price I am selling the Rohan Potatoes, I have sold them & still am selling them at \$5- p<sup>r</sup> bushel, in smaller quantities, have adopted the prices of those, who have bought some few bushels for selling again, viz. \$3. pr peck. \$1. p<sup>r</sup> Doz. take them large & small, or 10<sup>cts</sup> a piece & select them which may prefer, both for convenience & economy. The price however can be only a matter of secondary consideration, when taken into account their extraordinary productiveness & superiority as a table potato, & when I inform you the price I paid for them, I presume you will not think I am very extravagant in my prices. I claim also, to have been the first individual who has introduced them into the United States, having had the origin & history of this potato at an early date publish'd, one of our City papers, I avail'd myself of the first opportunity by a friend of mine a Merchant in N. Y. in the French trade, who was then in Paris, and forwarded to him an order in Oct<sup>r</sup> 1835, to procure for me the Rohan Potato, & some few Grapes of choice fruit trees, they were purchase'd for me, the price paid for this potato, in Paris, was at the rate of \$30. p<sup>r</sup> bushel adding some expense of box package & land transportation, & so- going to some distance and a long voyage, so--they did not arrive at N. Y. until the last of May 1836. the bill for the same, when presented, including freight duties & commission amounted to \$37.50--by accident or otherwise when rec'd at Catskill about the first of June, they had cost me

Page one 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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