

Draft of a letter to Benjamin F. Greene from John A. Thomson [transcript]

with some indirect expenses when rec'd at Catskill, they had cost me \$45 for this I rec'd a small box about 6 inches by 12 containing just fifteen very moderate sized potatoes put on in a bed of ashes- very much shrunk & enfeebled, by detention & long voyage they did not arrive in N. Y. until the last of April in the spring of 1856- notwithstanding the lateness of the season and some sickness in their cultivation, my produce from this potato was at the rate, of 40 bush¹ from one bush¹. You may have observ'd in the "Cultivator" a statement made by Judge Bull, of an experiment of his (this summer past, 1857) from 18 lb of this Potato the produce of which very greatly exceeded mine, & I know of, reason, (all circumstances being favorable) why they say not produce from 50 to 60 bush¹ from one, I do not however anticipate that they will arrive to the great weight mentioned in France, viz 14 lb. I think our seasons for cultivation, are not sufficiently long, from the knowledge I now have, of the productiveness & superiority of the Rohan Potato I should be perfectly willing to say all they have must be for my own use only, & to fact any profit, from the sale of ^{them} ~~them~~, was the least of my anticipations when I imported them, you will please on the Rec^d of this, inform me whether you wish to increase or diminish, as to quantity, your Order, as I have now several smaller orders on hand from various parts of the U. States, & wish to know definitely, what quantity to enter to each order, to be deliver'd next spring, I have only a limited number of bush¹ now on hand to dispose off.

Page two of a typed copy of a draft letter written by John A. Thomson to Benjamin F. Greene regarding the shipment and market prices of Rohan potatoes. Thomson was a well-known grower of that species of potato on his Catskill farm. Original draft is contained within the Family papers.

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