

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

climate, altho my produce was large the first season, I look of  
no reason (all circumstances being equal) why they are not  
produce from 50 to 100  $\times$   $\frac{1}{2}$  more. you may have observ'd Judge  
Bulls notice of them in the "Cultivator" with a statement of  
the produce from 15 lb. of this potato, which greatly  
exceeded mine, he planted them four weeks, however, earlier than  
mine, & was growing when the frost killed the vines- I had some  
to weigh  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lb. but like many other varieties of potato, run  
from small to very large, I would now, inform you that I did  
not succeed so well this season in the amount of Produce by less  
than one half of the year previous, or confident however the  
failure was almost wholly owing to a mistake in the location,  
& mode of cultivating, (having been absent when they were  
planted) they were planted on dry, thin stony soil, wh<sup>ch</sup>'d  
the previous season planted in furrows, with manure drilled  
in the furrows on the potato, & the fore part of the season being  
with us here, unusually wet & cold & the extreme dry weather  
we had from the 1st of Aug't until late in the fall,  
the consequence was, the vines were dry'd up before the middle  
of Sept. & were dry'd & hous'd, the weather being unusually  
warm for the season about the time they were hous'd. they began  
to heat, & had to over haul them, which caus'd them to wilt  
slightly & of course has lessend the fineness of flavor & has  
greatly disappointed us in furnishing the positive proof I  
anticipatd, of their size & superiority of quality but are some  
the worse for seed potato, I do not imagine the Rohan potato  
to require any other or different mode of cultivation from our  
ordinary varieties of potato, which I have no doubt the farmers

Page three 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.

### Identifier

NYSL\_SC10637\_B2\_d\_003

### Alternate Identifier

DMS ID Number: 122035

### Date

December 20 1837

### Repository

New York State Library

### Source

New York State Library, SC10637, John A. Thomson Family papers, Box 2, Item d.

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