

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

in your section of Country perfectly well understood, as far  
however, as my own opinion, or observation has furnish'd me  
have believ'd the only security for a successful crop, & fine  
quality, is turning under an old sward lay, with the manure  
spread on the sward, more or less according to the judgment  
of the cultivator from a knowledge of his soil. I have never  
succeeded well with a crop of potatoes on soil, crop'd the  
previ<sup>o</sup>s year, however much manure may have been put on the same  
season, particularly drilling the manure in the furrows on hills,  
when plenty of rain, the vines may grow ~~freely~~ but the first dry  
weather will very soon kill the vines, at least so has been  
the result all my experiments in this way- you will permit me  
for this observe, in reference to the introduction of this  
potato, that I have reason to believe there has been no  
agricultural paper, or other periodical published in this  
Country, that has entitl'd the importation of the Rohan Potato in  
to the United States previous to the spring of 1836, or with  
this time except six of the Rohan Potato, brought from France  
by a gentleman of Albany late in the fall, or fore part of the  
winter 1837- Judge Bull showed me two of these six potatoes,  
last Febry when on a visit at his house- & gave me the above  
account of them, saying the two potatoes were presented him by  
this gentleman (M<sup>r</sup>. V. Benthuysen) which he cultivated the  
summer past, as stated in the "Cultivator" when you take up  
your mind as to the quantity you wish me to reserve for you, you  
will please inform me, as with what I have already discuss'd of &  
my orders now on hand, from Ver<sup>o</sup>. M<sup>r</sup>. Pany, & several Counties  
of this State, will absorb the greatest portion of what I have  
to part with at present.

Page four 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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