

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 successfull crop, A 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^{ous} 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~~ ^{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 noticed 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 Buil 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 (Mr. W. Benthayson) 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 dispos'd of &
my orders now on hand, from Ver^o M^{rs}. 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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