

prepare it in season. It is now submitted as supplementary to that report, and I respectfully request that it may be so communicated to Congress.

With much respect, your obedient servant,

J. BUTTERFIELD, *Commissioner.*

Hon. THOMAS EWING, *Secretary of the Interior.*

Boston, April 15, 1850.

SIR: We herewith present to you a report on the "copper lands" of the Lake Superior land district. When it is considered that this district embraces an area of more than sixteen thousand square miles; that nearly the whole of that area is an unbroken wilderness; that we were required to explore considerable portions of it with sufficient minuteness to designate the character of each quarter section; and that, in the accomplishment of this object, our camp equipage and provisions, and even our canoes, were carried for long distances on the backs of men; and that the limited state of our supplies often compelled us to press on without regard to weather—under these circumstances, we trust we shall be pardoned if it be found that we have fallen into minor errors, or hastily passed some points which were deserving of a more minute examination. In the delineation of the main features of the region, we trust that this report will be found correct.

With sincere thanks for the aid afforded us in the prosecution of these researches by several of the officers attached to the bureau over which you preside, we subscribe ourselves,

Sir, with great respect, your most obedient servants,

J. W. FOSTER,

J. D. WHITNEY,

*United States Geologists.*

To Hon. JUSTIN BUTTERFIELD,

*Commissioner of the General Land Office.*