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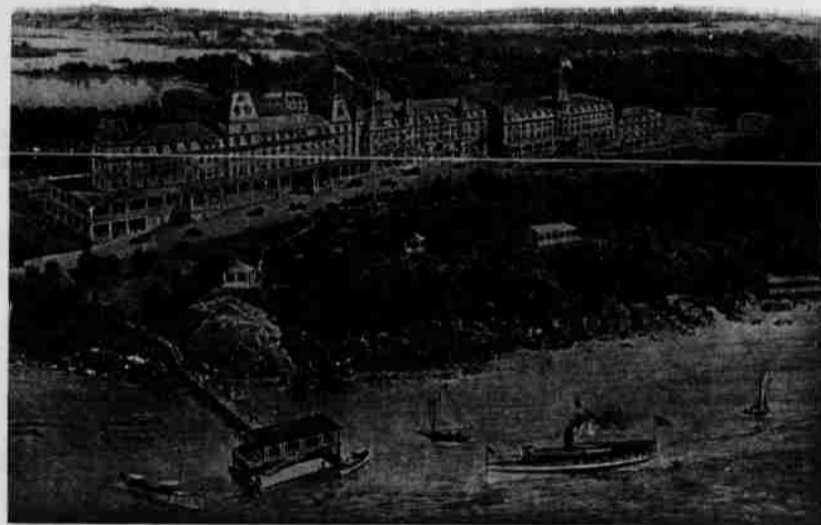
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PINEHURST, N. C.

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Illustrated and descriptive
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Managing Director

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Work of the Ages

(BION H. BUTLER)

MOORE COUNTY on the surface looks to a man who does not observe the conditions like an absolutely uninteresting waste of white sand with a little vegetation trying to shield it. That the ground tells a story that is fascinating all the way through never occurs to a large number of people who talk about the Sandhills. But I never go out a country road without finding new things that are remarkably interesting. The big earthquake in Japan, and the little ones that have been recorded in this country in the past two or three weeks, especially those east of the Mississippi, lead me to give more attention to the chapters of earthquake history that are visible in many parts of Moore county. I am no geologist, fortunately, so I can read these stories written in the rocks, with the same enthusiastic interest that we feel when we get a new book of unexpected development. A geologist knows all the things the rocks would tell him. The ordinary hick of my type knows little about the things that are to be unfolded, so it is a pleasure to roam about falling in with new bits of information that help to make the one big and interesting yarn.

The Japanese earthquake the geologists tell us was the slipping of one bit of the earth breaking away from another and one bit dropping down to make what the miners call a fault. It is just as if in a ten-acre field five acres should drop into the ground fifty or a hundred or two hundred feet. Only an earthquake drop may be five hundred square miles instead of five acres, and in some places evidently the drop is a mile instead of fifty feet. And that is what has been happening in Moore county in the days that are far behind us. Instead of being a big surface of sand with a little clay beneath in spots, Moore county is one of the most diversified exhibits of the structure of the earth, and what has happened to it, that can be found in this world. The sand is a thin blanket. Beneath that blanket is the story as plainly told as if written in a printed page. One day it is evident this section of North Carolina was a gigantic mountain. Possibly the geologists have an idea of how high that mountain may have been, but I am not familiar enough with these things to guess whether it was a mile high or five miles high or less than either. But up at Glendon, north of the Deep river the rocks of the lower series stand almost up on end, indicating that ages ago a great uplift had thrown the whole surface of the county high in the air. Down at Chandlers dam and at Thaggards the rocks are standing up on end pointing to the southeast just as up at Glendon, showing that when the uplift took place a section several miles in scope was tilted up, and the rocks at Thaggards having been originally lower rocks the rise into the air must have been tremendous unless a series of folds has raised a succession of smaller elevations between the extremities.

But it was not the mountains that just now attracted my attention, but rather the enormous slips of the surface. On the road between Cameron and Carthage is a slip in the exposed rocks where the eastern side shows schists that must originally have been close to two miles lower in the surface than the red sands that adjoin the schists on the west. The two rocks are plainly visible there on the side of the road. All the way from that slip northwest of Putnam and Parkwood the red sands and the rocks below wherever found are rising toward the northwest, showing that the thickness of the sands at the point of contact on the Cameron road must be close to ten thousand feet. But the schists have been raised up until all the sand rocks have been shoved high into the air and worn away until the uplift is worn down level with the sands on the west side. When the slip took place if it all took place at one time the earthquake that was felt would have made the quake in Japan seem like the gentle taps at the petting parties we hear of these days when the young folks fall in with each other. But as