

## The Good Will Country

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When the tourist, in central Maine, leaves Waterville, traveling, east and north, he soon reaches Fairfield village; if he turns sharply to the right, he goes over the bridge and continues on through Clinton, Pittsfield and Newport to Bangor and beyond. But if he keeps straight ahead, he is soon out of Fairfield village, leaves the little village of Shawmut on the right and comes to the brow of a hill. At this point a panorama is spread before him; it is not deep enough to be called a bowl, but might be likened to an immense platter with somewhat irregular rim. To the east and north are Battle Ridge and the Canaan hills; in front of him is Moxie Mountain, to the west is Bigelow Hill, and beyond, the Blue Mountains in Franklin County. Through the heart of the scene are three lines that run north and south, parallel and only a few rods apart; they are the Kennebec, glistening and silvery in the sunlight, on its way from Moosehead Lake to the sea; the Maine Central Railroad stretching from Skowhegan to Portland, and the International Auto Trail, between Bath on the south and Quebec in the north. The territory east of the river is Clinton township, the most northerly town in Kennebec County; the territory on the west, through which he is travelling, is Fairfield township, the most

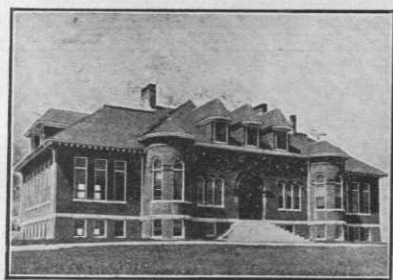
## THE GOOD WILL COUNTRY

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southerly town in Somerset County. Clinton was once a part of Acadia that belonged to the French; Fairfield was once a part of New England and belonged to the British—that was before Maine was settled or the townships named.

It is a beautiful view of God's sweet country as one looks northward; it tells the story of rural peace and contentment; open fields, stretches of green and brown with wood lands in abundance, and here and there, a farm house. In the center of the scene is the largest cluster of buildings anywhere in sight—a dozen or fifteen well built commodious dwelling houses, each a home for a family of fifteen boys or fifteen girls; a number of brick structures—a high school building, a museum, a Carnegie Library, an imposing Administration building, a granite chapel, and a little R. R. station. This is Good Will Farm; this is headquarters for the Good Will Home Association; this is the home of the "Good Will Idea"; this is the heart of the Good Will Country. From his vantage-point on the brow of the hill the tourist cannot see a farm-house whose occupants have not in some way been influenced by the "Good Will Idea." From each and every farm the people have come to Good Will to attend Summer Assemblies, to watch athletic contests, to visit the Museum, to witness "Commencement" exercises, to worship in the

Chapel, to listen to lectures to enjoy "Camp fires," to see dramas and photo-plays, and to hear vocal concerts and organ recitals. And this entire community—a philanthropic and educational enterprise,—has been created within a few years by the gifts of benevolent folk in all parts of the United States; there are over two hundred scholars in the Good Will schools. There are fifteen hundred acres here which constitute a State Game Preserve created by act of Legislature, and no shooting is allowed.



THE BATES MUSEUM

The first brick structure as one approaches from the south is the Charles E. Moody Building, the home of the Good Will boys' grammar school and the Good Will mixed high school. Close to it—the next brick structure—is the Bates Museum. A noticeable sign, near by, in orange and black—the Good Will colors—says: "Visitors Welcome", which means that through the summer months, every day except Sunday, the Museum is open; there is no admission fee; an attendant is ready to greet visitors

and answer questions. The Museum was founded for the Good Will community but for the present, anyway, it is shared by the public. There are collections in geology, mineralogy, conchology, entomology, ichthyology, ornithology, history, art. No one should leave the building without going to the top floor and looking from the south and north windows; it is here that, better than anywhere else, he can get an idea of the Good Will country. From the museum, anyone who is interested in education, or philanthropy, may wisely go to the Prescott Memorial—the structure with the tall spire—and here, at anytime in office hours, some one will show the visitor through the building, and explain the "Good Will Roundel" which symbolizes the "Good Will Idea." If the visitor has time and would like a change, he may drive to the beginning of the "Bowdoin Trail", one of half a dozen trails in the Good Will woods, leave his auto near Whitney Home on Page Terrace, and take a twenty minutes walk in Maine woods, passing the "Bowdoin Boulder" with its bronze tablet in honor of Wm. DeWitt Hyde, former president of Bowdoin, and bearing his famous tribute to the American College, past the Tenterden Tablets, the only monument to Samuel Hinckley, Esq., father of the Hinckleys in America, who was born in Tenterden, sailed for America, on the

## THE GOOD WILL COUNTRY

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“good ship Hercules” in 1634, and is buried in Barnstable, Mass.; thence to the end of the trail and the “Murray Tablets”, the only memorial in existence to the far-famed “Adirondack Murray.” The visitor may then retrace his steps—another twenty minutes—or, if he has previously arranged, his chauffeur will go around, over the Fairfield Centre road to the Murray Tablets, and meet him there, driving between the houses at Cloverslope and at Applehurst, which are becoming well known, through Mr. Hinckley’s volume of “Letters from Applehurst” which are followed by his “Letters from Cloverslope.”

Now as the tourist leaves the Administration Building, to proceed on his journey, he passes the Moody Memorial Chapel—place of worship for the Good Will Community—on the left and comes quickly to Marten Stream Bridge. Here on the left is the “Good Will Memorial Arch”, somewhat removed from the highway; this arch serves a double purpose. First, it carries the names of one hundred and ninety-four Good Will boys who responded to the call of service in the World War, and thirteen bronze stars, one for each of the thirteen who made the supreme sacrifice in that conflict. It also serves as an entrance to the “Good Will Trail”—another of the half dozen trails in the Good Will territory, and which was formally opened and dedicated on the first

## THE GOOD WILL COUNTRY

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anniversary of the signing of the armistice. Beyond Marten Stream one passes the Good Will girls’ homes, and the Emily F. Ryerson building, home of the Good Will girls’ grammar school, and sewing school on the left. In a moment he will have reached Hinckley, where, if he turns to the right he will cross the Hinckley steel bridge and six miles away, at Canaan, he will strike the State road to Newport and Bangor; or continuing to the north, as he approaches Skowhegan, eight miles away he leaves the Good Will Country behind him.



GOOD WILL BOOK SHOP AND TEA ROOM

But after passing the girls’ cottages and the Ryerson School building, and before reaching the Hinckley bridge, the traveller will approach a small building, somewhat back from the highway. The tourist may wisely stop here. It is the publicity building of the Good Will Publishing Company. Here will be on sale, through the summer months, a collection of

## THE GOODWILL COUNTRY

books which will be of interest to citizens of Maine, and tourists as well, because they are Maine books, and none others,—books about Maine, books by Maine authors, books with a Maine setting. In these classes will be included, as one can readily understand, such volumes as "Maine Beautiful," "Coastal Maine," "Maine, My State," "Just Maine Folks," "Where North Winds Blow," "The Man from Maine," "Three Men of Maine," "Forts of Maine," "Old Quinnebasset Days," "Land of the Pointed Fir," "Pearl of Orrs Island," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," Longfellow's Poems, Whittier's poems, "Up in Maine," "The Penobscot Man," "Legends of Katahdin," "The Birds' Christmas Carol," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," "Captain January," "Forgotten Fires," "Roughing it with Boys," "Elijah Kellogg, the Man," "The Good Will Idea," "The Passing Age," "Jack in the Pulpit," "The Maine Book" and other titles. Sawyer's colored photographs of local scenery, and an assortment of post cards of Good Will and vicinity will also be on sale. Tourists from out of the State and citizens of Maine will surely examine these books with interest and they will make purchases that will be a lasting pleasure to themselves and their friends.

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