

Gary and Dave:

We encounter in life a wide range of persons, but we do not, I believe, truly take the measure of a man until we see them in utter darkness. Matthew 8:12 talks of such darkness, "...the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

There is no darkness like prison. For here we discover the rotten core of humanity, both in prisoners and their masters. The debased country that we love rots before our very eyes--peopled with all manner of hypocrisy--Christ and I both are similar in this one measure--we hate these people the most--They are on parade here--dressed in their finest plumage--peacocks with miniscule brains to match, squawking all the while saying nothing.

Rising out of this cesspool, you two stand as giants among men, soft spoken, kind of heart, resolute of purpose, who, but for the surroundings, are immeasurable amongst their peers. Each day both of you make my journey through this hell as bearable as could be expected.

Most sincerely yours,

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William Maxwell, 2017