

**HOLDING BACK**  
By THOMAS ARKLE CLARK  
Dean of Men, University of Illinois.

MRS. DAYTON was looking over her discarded clothing, and her husband's, to see what might with safety be disposed of without loss or sacrifice to herself or to her family. She had listened recently to an appeal and she wanted to seem charitable and generous and yet not yield entirely to her emotional impulses.

"Here are a couple of vests of your pa's and an old brown skirt of mine," she said to her daughter, Minerva. "I think I'll send them to the committee. They are of no possible use for anything else, and I hate to give away anything that I could use."

"Why don't you put in that gray suit of father's?" Maggie asked, "and your last winter's coat? You'll never wear them again and they would give some needy person good service."

"They seem too good to give away," Mrs. Dayton replied, "and, besides, I'd thought I might cut them up and braid them into a rug; the gray and the blue would go beautifully together. Mrs. Jackson had one in her bedroom last week that pleased me very much."

Mrs. Dayton forgot that she had a trunk full of braided rugs already that she had no place for. It was just the old habit of holding back, of never being quite able to make the surrender. The suit would hang in the closet until it was moth-eaten, the coat would pass from one closet to another, or they would be made into rugs for which she had no use, while down the street there were men and women and children with hardly a rag to hide their shivering, naked bodies.

When Gifford reported to the city official the amount of his assessable property he would not quite bring himself to make a clean breast of it.

"I don't believe the other fellows tell the truth," he explained to an intimate friend, "and I can't afford to be skinned." He wasn't quite honest.

It is a custom many of us follow, this holding back. We do not give ourselves over to a principle with complete abandon. When we give over we do it grudgingly. When we tell our wives we love them we say so, too often, with reservations. We are afraid to be overenthusiastic, overgenerous, overkind.

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Good government can't be found on the bargain counter, but its cheaper than poor government.

If the Chinese civil war results in the rout of Ma Jongg, it will not have been in vain.

Ho hum, and the girl who won the Atlantic City beauty contest did not have bobbed hair.

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I appreciate the business you have given us in the past and I will appreciate it if you will patronize the new firm. You will find me with them until October first.

R. E. CASH.  
R. W. Ashley.  
C. H. Holmes

9-19-24

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