

## CHAPTER XVII.

### WHAT OF THE FUTURE ?

An impartial survey of the available evidence would lead to the conclusion that the abolition of the bar and the curtailment of facilities for the purchase of liquor have been of very considerable benefit to our population, but it is also abundantly clear that complete prohibition is a farce and, whatever our statute books may nominally decree, simply does not exist in practice. Moreover, it is highly improbable that it can be made effective in the present stage of mental and social development of the population of Canada. Inevitably this conclusion will be fiercely combated by the champions of complete restriction, for those who do not possess opinions, but whose opinions possess them, grievously resent cold facts which reflect upon the truth of their own assertion as a sort of blasphemy if it upsets the dogmatic principle of their pre-conceptions. The whole liquor problem is a vast and intricate question which demands longer investigation and more ample information than it is the fortune of most ordinary laymen to possess. Too often in Canada the chief apostles of