

Queen's University Journal

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Editorial.

The University Charter.

THE question of altering the constitution of the University to make the institution national and free from denominational connection has reached a new stage of development recently in the distribution to graduates by the Trustees of a statement of suggested changes. In connection with this two proposed plans for changes in the constitution are submitted with the request that graduates indicate which of these they favor. Following this action on the part of the Trustees a circular has been issued by seven prominent graduates urging that the matter of expressing an opinion regarding the changes should not be neglected.

The question of altering the constitution of the University has been under consideration for several years by various governing bodies and by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. The Board of Trustees, it has been generally understood, supported by a considerable majority the proposal for modification: but the assembly has been unable to endorse the idea. With a view to showing that financial support for the University could be obtained under present relations between the church and the institution, that body undertook to raise \$500,000 as an Endowment Fund. The work of collecting this was carried on vigorously for a time. The amount subscribed during a period of five years was \$305,000; and \$200,000 of this had been paid in at the time of the last report, made in May, 1910. Since the inauguration of the Endowment Fund campaign the question of changing the charter has been again before the Assembly. Still it remains unsettled constituting an element of uncertainty in plans connected with University progress.

On the whole question of the recasting of the constitution there is difference of opinion. It is held by one party that the connection between Church and University should be maintained. This view is opposed by another party which favors nationalization that appeal may be made to a wider constituency