

had not been discontinued. They brought back numerous friends from the provinces. Ozanam had written on the 15th October, 1834, "We shall bring you a band of good Lyonese to Paris, who will swell all our meetings, though, truth to say, I no longer hold to the History Conference but as a means of recruiting the Conference of Charity." He kept his word, and from November to December, 1834, the number of members quickly exceeded a hundred.

The inconveniences which had already been felt by several members, at the time of the first increase, then became so sensible, that it was necessary to resume the project of dividing the Conference into several sections. Brought before the meeting of December the 16th at the suggestion of Ozanam, many opposed it. The principal objection was the impossibility of having M. Bailly to preside at the different sections. He had received the growing Society into his house, had guided it, lavishing his advice on its first efforts. They were accustomed to his direction, his presidency seemed indispensable, and they feared that the sections that would be deprived of it might languish and be dissolved. These objections prevented any resolution being adopted.

Fifteen days afterwards, on the 30th December, Arthaud renewed the proposal to divide themselves into sections. A committee was formed to examine into it. On the next day, 31st of December, the committee met, and such was the interest that attached to the question, that several members, although not belonging to this committee, went there, and even took part in the discussion. It was a warm one. The project of division, sustained by Ozanam, was combated earnestly by Brac de la Perrière. Le Taillandier feared above all the great blow that would be given to the friendly relations established between the members, by a separation: he could not restrain his tears at the idea of it. The meeting continued; opposition of the different views and general emotion were only increasing, when the clock struck midnight. At the sound of the New-Year, M. Bailly, very much moved himself, rose and said: