

directors, M. Bailly. These premises comprised on the ground floor a reading room, a room serving as a library, and several smaller rooms, and on the upper stories, M. Bailly's apartments, with a certain number of rooms. The latter were occupied by young students, pensioners of M. Bailly, who had organized a reading room for them in the library, and different conferences for law and history in the halls of the ground floor. In order to cause a little emulation among the residents, M. Bailly admitted several young men from without to subscribe to the library, and to take part in the labors of the conferences.

The best attended among the latter was the conference called the *History Conference*, but literature and philosophy were also studied there, and Frederic Ozanam belonged to it. He came to Paris in the year 1831, to begin his law studies. He was living in the Rue des Fosses St. Victor, with M. Ampère, of the Institute, who felt quite a paternal interest in him. The energetic and enlightened faith of Ozanam had long since suggested to him the idea of a federation of studies and labors amongst young Christian men. He saw a means of realizing his project, in the History Conference, and he never lost an opportunity of bringing new members to it. It was he who induced Lallier, one of the ten philosophy pupils of St. Stanislaus during the preceding year, to enter during the year 1832. Some time afterwards Lamache was admitted. He was a native of the environs of Cherbourg, but was living in Paris since November, 1830.

The History Conference was not composed exclusively of Christian students. There were several Deists, Voltairians and Saint Simonians. Work was not of obligation. The most zealous and ardent lectured on subjects chosen by themselves. It therefore happened from time to time that the lectures gave rise, during the meeting, to rather warm discussions, especially when the Voltairians mixed in it. These struggles, sustained by Christian members of the Conferences, in defence of their common faith, soon established affectionate relations between those who had not known each other previously, and strength-