

The success of these little associations naturally made the members anxious to extend them, and multiply their fruits. They felt themselves, no doubt in a very humble manner, useful to the poor, and, above all, useful to themselves. Faith, piety, every good and pure affection of the human heart found food in these Christian relations amongst young men, who could give free scope to all the enthusiasm of their age, under the guidance of a man essentially good, calm and prudent. They therefore felt the necessity of widening the sphere of their action, and from time to time this became apparent from the conversation of several of them. Thus, on Holy Thursday, March 27, 1834, La Taillandier and Lallier agreed to meet at Ozanam's, to discuss a project of a grand association of good works, which would comprise the provinces as well as Paris. But the unexpected arrival of other visitors prevented the three friends from examining the subject thoroughly.

On the other hand, the Conference meetings, which had become large, no longer presented the charm of the early intimacy. The long distribution of the tickets, more rarely accompanied with details of the families visited, was losing much of its interest. They willingly allowed themselves the pleasure of a private chat with those sitting near them. The meeting of the 24th of April, 1834, had certainly made those inconveniences more manifest, for, on leaving the Conference, at nearly ten o'clock in the evening, Ozanam, Devaux and Lallier consulted together for more than an hour, walking on the Place du Panthéon. For the first time they asked each other if it would not be desirable to divide the Conference into sections, in each of which they would know each other better, and when it would be possible to have again the charm and intimacy of earlier times.

The solution to that question was not given until the following year. It was debated more than once, without, however, the project of extending the Society to the provinces being lost sight of. On the 10th of June, 1834, Ozanam presented to the Conference a former companion who was