



Balzac et l'honorable député

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Abstract: *Illusions perdues* portrays the birth of “fake news”: newspapers entering into a relationship with commerce, hypocrisy, and cowardice. At the same time, in the preface to the third part of the novel, Balzac names the print media as one of the great defenders of freedom. How can the thesis of the novel be reconciled with the novelist’s response to the deputy Chapuys-Montlaville? How did Balzac understand the status of the novel in the era of industrial literature?

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