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5834. Bell Telephone Company of Canada, London Exchange, Subscribers' Directory, Ontario Department, February, 1891. The Bell Telephone Company of Montreal, Que.

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5849. The Young Canadian. Vol. 1, No. 2, February 4, 1891. Margaret Polson Murray, Montreal, Que.

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5858. Selections from Tennyson, so far as regards the following Poems: The May Queen, Love Thou Thy Land, You ask me Why, Ulysses, Eneid, The Revenge, In the Children's Hospital. Macmillan & Co., London, Eng.

5859. Calendrier du Diocese de Nicolet, 1891. Edouard Sicard de Carutel, de Trois-Rivieres, Que.

5860. Mother I'll Take Care of You. Words and Music by Will. F. McNulty. Arranged by Geo. Morton Pierce. A & S. Nordheimer, Toronto, Ont.

5861. The Ship with the Flag of Blue. Words and Music by Mary Frances Boylan. A. & S. Nordheimer, Toronto, Ont.

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COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER.

So many things have been written about the Commercial Traveller, some true to life, some unreal and impossible of occurrence, and some tinted with all the varied shades of the prismatic brain of the penny-a-liners, that the really true knight of the road feels his soul shrinking at the bare idea of reading an article headed by the subject of his avocation.

Those who have read the works of that great and wonderful genius, Balzac, whose scalpel laid bare the deepest and most repulsive wounds of the social world, high and low, and whose writings display such a profound knowledge of the human heart and an extraordinary range of knowledge, and who painted life far deeper and more true to nature than even George Sand or Rousseau, will pleasantly recall the scene from his "Provincial Life," and see in the "Illustrious Gaudissart" such a picture of a commercial traveller of his day as to make one marvel at the writer's erudition and prescience. In order to give those of our readers who have not read the works of the great French novelist a glance at the commercial traveller as portrayed by him, we think it pardonable to reprint such of his opinions as can be clipped from the story and still prove interesting, instructive and reflective reading, and we feel sure our readers will admit that Balzac's description, though written over fifty years ago when the commercial traveller, as an indispensable part and parcel of the commercial world, was still an infant, though happily out of his long clothes, shows a wonderful pre-knowledge of his subject, and most of his observations are applicable to the traveller of our day. In reading "The Illustrious Gaudissart" one feels as if Balzac were still in the flesh and a regular reporter on one of our progressive dailies, so familiar is his picture to us.

Waiving any further remarks on this subject on our part, for time and space would be inadequate to exhaust it were we inclined to enter upon the task of adding to the literature of the "road." Let us see what Balzac writes:

"The Commercial Traveller, a personage unknown to antiquity, is one of the striking figures created by the manners and customs of our present epoch."

How familiar and commonplace this sounds to us, as if clipped from last evening's paper.

"The Commercial Traveller! Is he not to the realm of ideas what our stage-coaches are to men and things? He is their vehicle, he sets them going, carries them along, rubs them up with one another. He takes from a luminous centre a handful of light, and scatters it broadcast among the drowsy populations of the duller regions. This human pyrotechnic is a scholar without learning, a juggler hoaxed by himself, an unbelieving priest of mysteries and dogmas, which he expounds all the better for his want of faith.