You cannot cropping it! Or can you?

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The photographer cannot, like Turner, whisk an invisible town around a hill, and bring it into view, or shave off a mountain's scalp... He must take what he sees, just as he sees it, and his only liberty is the selection of a point of view. (REV. H.J. Morton: The Philadelphia Photographer , II, 1865).

This was written in XIX century, not so long after invention of photography. How it is possible that already from the beginning there was discussion about the way of framing? And what about our times? In the era of Photoshop and other programs for photo-editing, could we still believe in what we see?

Should the photographer just *take what he sees, and how he sees it*? Can he use light, type of framing and characters selections to presents what *he* wants?