

their own hands. Any endeavor, therefore, to place artistic accessories within the reach of the multitude is highly commendable, and deserves to be encouraged by every progressive photographer.

Europe is crammed full of artistic goods of various kinds, on which the price is generally quadrupled by the time they are placed on sale in this country. If the price could be reduced on these articles to such an extent that they would be within reach of the modest purses of the photographic fraternity, it would go far to solve the problem of how to obtain artistic accessories at a moderate expense. There are the imitations of old Delft ware, for instance, in many cases better than the originals. There is no reason, considering the cost of production, why those who admire them should be expected to pay such a ridiculously high price. Then, too, there are the wonderful imitations of old weapons made in Germany, a full assortment of which was exhibited at the Columbian Exhibition, where it excited much attention. One of the swords which the writer admired was valued at twelve dollars, a price that was greatly in excess of its actual value. The same comments apply to artistic furniture, although it has become greatly cheaper than it used to be. In these days of the successful application of machine carving, artistic furniture ought to be cheap. Possibly high prices are maintained by the limited demand.

Reverting to painted back-grounds once more, I desire to say that I consider those that bear the images of furniture on their canvas as despic-

able in every sense of the word. They never look natural in a photograph. The furniture generally throws impossible shadows, and looks out of place. Painted draperies not infrequently look effective, but, in my opinion, back-ground painters should mainly confine their efforts to the creation of plain back-grounds and landscape effects.

In conclusion, I would say that photographic studios should be as artistic in appearance as those of any



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other artists, and that they can be made so at little expense. All corners of the world yield inexpensive material that will beautify an apartment, and if the demand is created there would soon be a plenteous supply of artistic furniture and decorative articles at low prices. I trust, moreover, that every knight of the lens and camera will awake to the importance of the accessories he makes use of in the daily pursuit of his avocation, and it was for the purpose of bringing this desirable consummation about that this modest article was written.