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THE COVER: "Final Assault on Fort Fisher" by Xanthus Russell Smith (1839-1929). This painting is reproduced through the courtesy of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Joseph and Sarah Harrison Collection. Commanding U.S. naval forces in the attack was Admiral David Dixon Porter, the subject of a profile beginning on page 4 of this issue.

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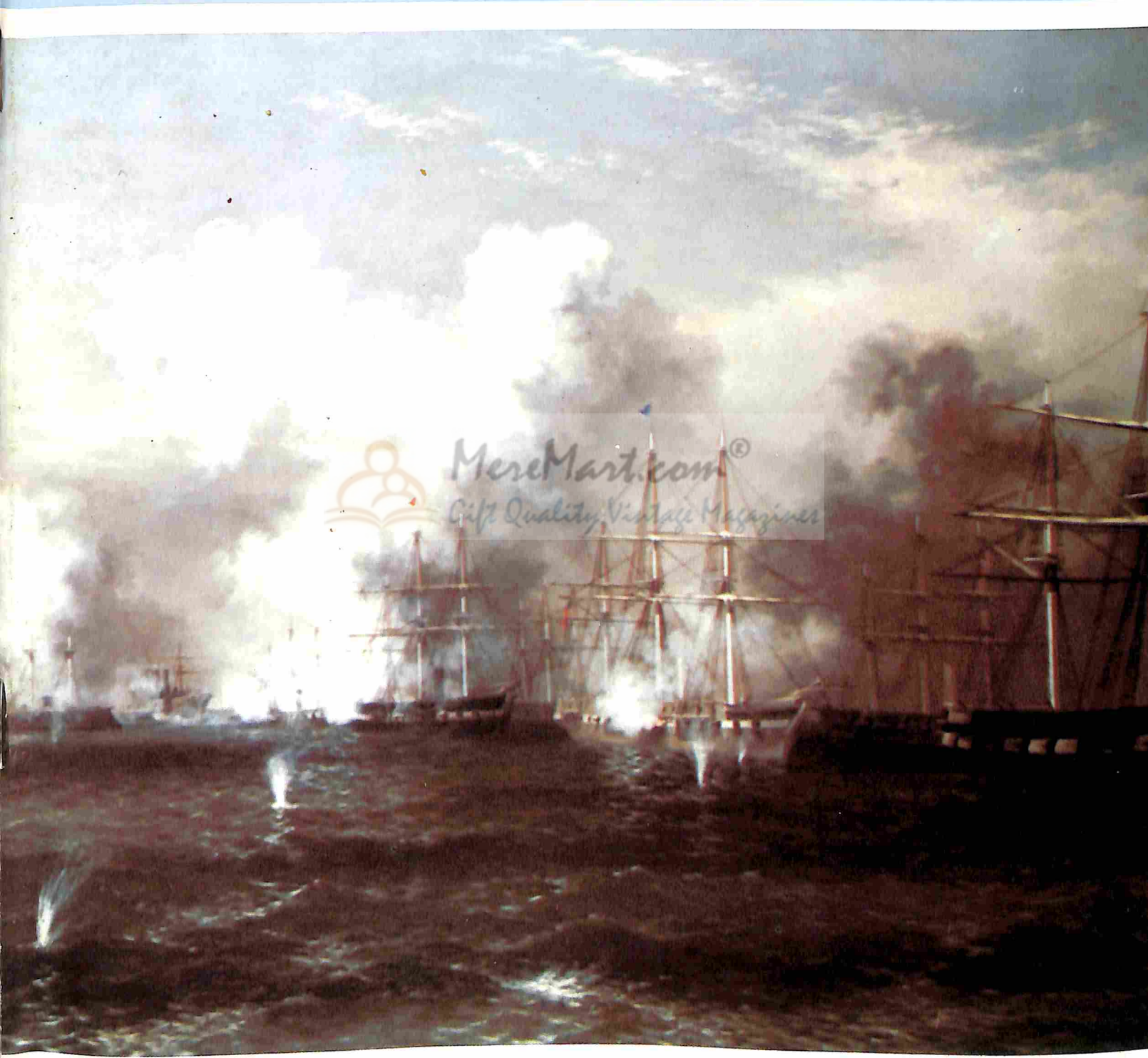
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By Xanthus Smith