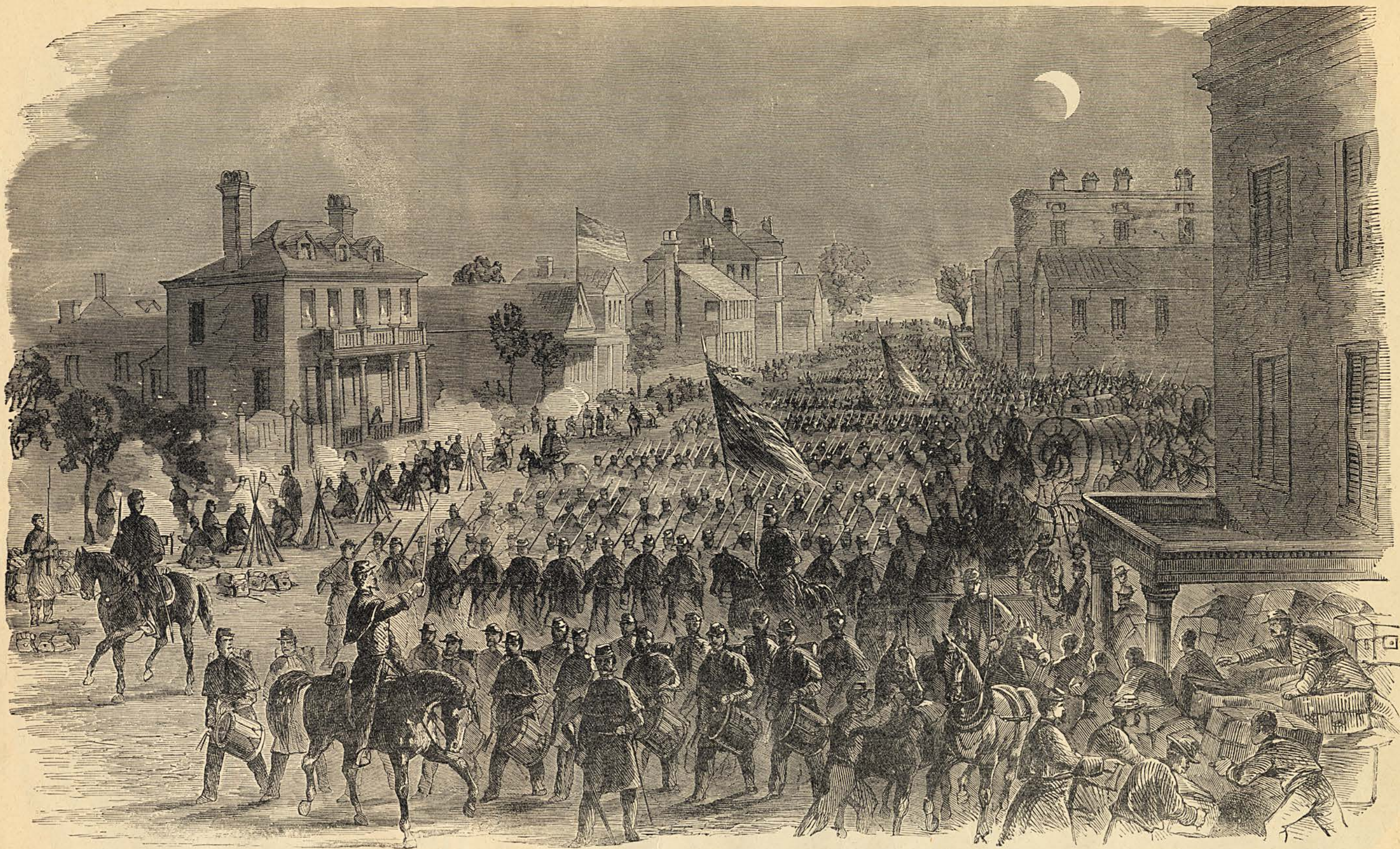




GENERAL STEVENS' BRIGADE TAKING POSSESSION OF BEAUFORT, S. C., ON THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 5, 1861.

The beautiful rural town of Beaufort, S. C., came into possession of the Union authorities as a result of the battle of Port Royal (see p. 64). It had been occupied as the headquarters of General Thomas F. Drayton, commander of the army of defence on Port Royal Sound. The place had been abandoned by all the white inhabitants save one man, who sat in the post-office when the Union troops appeared on the scene. To him was delivered the message of Commodore Du Pont announcing that the life and property of the people would be respected. General Stevens' brigade assumed the duties of police to maintain order. It comprised the following regiments: Eighth Michigan, Seventy-ninth New York Highlanders, Fiftieth and One Hundredth Pennsylvania. The last named was known as the "Roundhead" regiment.