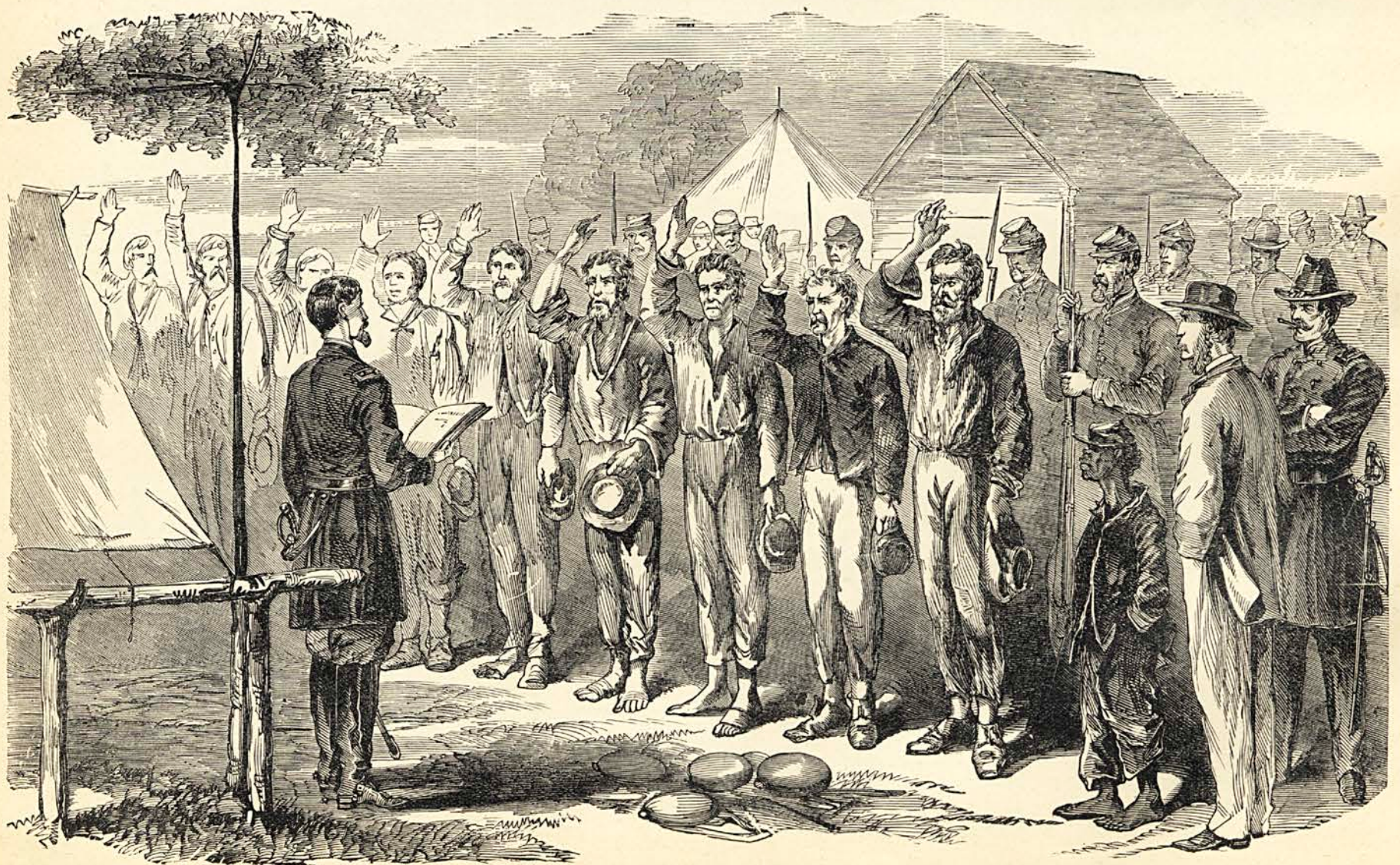




VOLUNTARY DISPERSION OF KIRBY SMITH'S ARMY AT SHREVEPORT, LA., MAY 23, 1865.

If the world was amazed in 1861 at the spectacle of a free people rising to arms, and of armies both sides of Mason and Dixon's line organized and armed in a few short months, which did not exist before even on paper, there was not less cause for wonder in 1865, when, the war having been fought out, these armies melted away in a week. Cincinnati went back to his plow; the hand that had wielded the sword took up the scythe, and the horse that had led the furious charge that decided the fate of battle plodded the furrowed field in the service of the husbandman. North and South the spectacle was the same. Kirby Smith's army dispersed of its own accord in distant Louisiana, and Maine and Minnesota received back their farmers, no longer "embattled." Grant allowed the captured soldiers of Lee's army to take home their horses to help with their crops, and military prisons were emptied of Confederates, who were sworn to a new allegiance to their generous conquering government, and they too were sent to their homes to begin life over again and recover by the arts of peace all that had been lost in the hopeless four years' struggle. Grant's victories with the sword gave him imperishable earthly renown; but what he did, even in the first flush of victory, toward "mercy and peace," surely served him better when he was called to give an account of his stewardship and receive his eternal reward,



ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE TO CONFEDERATE PRISONERS.

FROM A SKETCH BY E. F. MULLEN.