of them to leave the service—

I suppose that you want to know how I spent Christmas. I will tell you. I spent it doing picket duty on the banks of the Potomac. Christmas eve Co. B came to our bivouacs, with an order in his hand from Gen. Stone ordering us to send two Co's to the river to double our pickets there with orders to have them relieved every hour by a comr. comm. officer for twenty-four hours and that our Co. would have to be one to go to the Capt. was engaged for that day and Lieut. Barnes is now our detached officer commanding one of the Co.'s of our Reg. The Command fell on me alone so bright and early Christmas morning the Co. was formed and we took up our line of march for the river where we crossed myself by writing a certain No. of Posts of the line, each hour during the twenty-four that we stayed—