I was ordered out the Thursday night but got excused as I have been out so much. I was out all day Sat. & Sat. night. It was raining it very cold. We are just where Washington fought Cornwallis but how different! I presume there will be here more than 250 or 300 thousand men engaged in death conflict. Instead of 6, 8, 11 and 18 pounders we will use 100 70 & 250 40. 10 inch 13 inch shell 3600 more. And I presume there will be more than 20 thousand cannon on both sides.

Twenty thousand men have been at work night & day for the last three weeks making roads through ravines & bridge can, &c through marshes & creeks which we doubt the rebels thought impassable. So tonight 25 60 regulars went out with shovels &. picks went up into an open field in front of the rebel works and dug a trench from the ravine on the left to the river on the right & 3 yard wide & 5 deep. It was very cold & raining and our regiment went out beyond them towards the rebel fort and lay on the ground on their faces to defend the working party if attacked. That was harder than it an to work. The amount of work done here is beyond all conception almost. Splendid roads are made where was only a deep marshy creek into which the tide runs back from the river & clame. Turtle savines through which a man could.