

Below is part of a letter that Harry Hammond wrote to his wife Emily Cumming Hammond while he was serving in the Confederate Army during the Civil War.

Camp near Montpellier, April 27, 1864

My Dear Wife:

I have been on the point of commencing a letter to you several times during the last day or two, but in addition to other interruptions, and a good deal of occupation I have written so much officially, that my hand has become weary, and it pains me to hold a pen. You may have experienced the same feeling when you commenced practicing on the piano, while you can hardly call the sensation pain it is sufficient to divert the attention, and to be very annoying...

There is activity and cheerfulness everywhere and I never knew the feeling in the Army more buoyant or confident than it is now. This is owing in part to the series of successes our arms have met with recently, some what to the long rest the troops have enjoyed here and to the assurance which the largely increased strength of the Army gives the men...

I was so tired last night my dear Emily that I could not finish my letter to you, nor answer yours of the 22nd which I received some time after dark. I had been out on a long ride after grazing-ground for my stock...Kiss my little Julia and remember me to all.

Goodbye my dear Wife.
HH (Harry Hammond)