

Spain did bow to two U. S. demands—a temporary armistice and the lifting of the reconcentration order—but the hour was late. The public and political pressures on McKinley were enormous. Two days *after* receiving word of Spain's capitulation, on April 11, 1898, the President sent a war message to Congress. He underscored the urgent need to abate a nuisance at our door, to protect American trade and property in Cuba, and to eliminate a menace to our peace.

On April 19 Congress passed a joint resolution demanding Spain's withdrawal from Cuba. It recognized the island's freedom and disclaimed any intention to annex.

Make Him Walk Spanish Uncle Sam—Now Git—Durn Ye!



Charles L. Bartholomew (Bart). *Minneapolis Journal*, 1898.

Whatever small hope Spain still harbored of salvaging its empire or at least its prestige was soon extinguished. Less than two weeks after Congress's joint declaration, Admiral Dewey sent the Spanish navy to the bottom of Manila Bay. The first blow for Cuban independence was struck on the other side of the globe.

After Dewey's incredible victory, the name of the game was no longer liberating Cuba but acquiring an empire. Many Americans liked the idea. They considered it America's Duty and Destiny to rescue the Spanish colonies.

The Spanish Brute Adds Mutilation to Murder



Grant Hamilton. *Judge*, 1898.

Other Americans saw no virtues in the United States' acquiring a burdensome family of dependents. McKinley himself had been unenthusiastic about going to war. Now he was undecided about how to handle his victory. He could return the Philippine Islands to Spanish misrule, annex them, or recognize their independence. The President waited for public sentiment to crystallize.

The Cares of a Growing Family



J. Campbell Cory. *The Bee*, 1898.