

standpoint to the nation. It forms the basis on which the Laws of Nations have been founded from time immemorial, it is **sentiment — national sentiment** — that which launches us into war, or frames our codes of conditions of peace—that which above all other things should be **consistent**, if necessarily more or less complex and mythical.

Our standard of national ethics is based upon **Sentiment**, in times of trouble we appeal to **National Sentiment** to “stand to arms” in defence of what we as a nation consider to be **Justice**, and in times of peace we **trust to the nation**, that made the appeal, to see that justice is done towards those who answered the appeal, and in so far only as the nation responds to its self-imposed responsibility, is it worthy of the name of a **Nation**.

Let us pause for a few moments and consider the consistency, or otherwise, of our past and present code of national ethics, as applicable to those of our fellow citizens who having answered the national call of duty, subsequently fall on evil times and in the extremity of death become a **public charge**. What is the nation's gratitude in return for their services? Is it possible, citizen, that as a “Christian nation,” as an empire on which the sun never sets, we have no other answer than **A Pauper's Grave**? Yes, it is not only possible, but **it is true**. That is the phase of our national indebtedness we desire to arouse your interest in; the one phase that, in the words of a distinguished Canadian—“**should take precedence of all others**.” Let us give you his version:—

“The indifference with which the peoples of all times have accepted the services of those who fight for our liberties, and permit them to sink into oblivion, reflects very gravely on the ingratitude of humanity. To provide honorable burial for a soldier or sailor who has faithfully served his country should not be left to the chance generosity of the individual, **it is a duty that should take precedence of all others**. To honor and protect in death, seems but a small return to him who has protected the nation's honor in life.