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BLASPHEMOUS LIBELS.

MATTHEW Arnold insists upon it, that the minority is always right and that the sequel always proves that it is so. This is only a striking and terse way of saying that progress is constantly being achieved by new ideas, at first embraced by the few, finally advancing to universal recognition. In spite, however, of this very patent fact the majority has always considered the rest of the community not only not to be right, but to be most wilfully, obstinately and maliciously wrong. The majority, of course, governs, and when it seems to be apparent to the rulers that the possession or promulgation of certain opinions tends to the subversion of order and happiness and the welfare of the kingdom, then the unlucky proprietors of brains that lead their owners to such conclusions must be silenced and punished. This is not only natural, it is the only logical outcome of the circumstances, and is applied as well where christians are in the minority as where they control legislation. Ecclesiastics argue that it is better to burn one heretic than that he be allowed to contaminate many and put all in danger of eternal damnation. We bow to his logic, but feel that there must be some lapse, some distributive middle, something

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