Matthew Arnold did not limit his skills in criticism only to literary works. He is a well-known critic of social, political, and religious issues. Arnold knows that culture is everything in the world that would not be here if we did not exist. In *Sweetness and Light* Arnold explains the significance of culture and the differences between it and religious and political organizations. The issue is to explain the equality of culture and its advantages over societies pre-ordained ideals. With respect to the pre-Raphaelites, Arnold agrees with them about the need for individuality and humanization of society. Complaining about how society makes cookie-cutter people, “an intellectual food prepared and adapted in the way they think proper for the actual condition of the masses” and does not allow them to make their own judgments. Although Arnold says he does not condemn the idea of religious or
political identities he is obviously against those parties moral authority over their members, de-humanizing them. For a culture to be successful it needs both sweetness and light; sweetness being the ingredient of a culture which is open, tolerant, and accepting. Light is the intellectual part of culture. People must be transferred from their association’s ideological placement and mentality to a person with a humanized purpose. The source of the sweetness and light comes from the “true apostles of equality”. Culture is the bearer of free will, social equality, knowledge, and humanization. Arnold believes that it is essential for a culture to have both elements of sweetness and light. Like the light from a candle comes from the wax it burns, and the sweetness of the honey brought by a bee, which makes the wax, completes the circle. With out the bee to bring the honey there would be no wax and therefore no candlelight.