Freedom of the Will in Contexts

Edwards’s Home at Stockbridge (c. 1871)
Personal Life

- March 14, 1753: writes last will & testament

- April 1753: draft of Freedom of the Will nearly completed
  (note role of Thomas Foxcroft in shepherding ms. through press)

- June 1753: travels to Northampton, East Windsor, New York

- July 1754: beginning of year of illness,
  “fits, agues and scorbutic maladies”

- October 21, 1754: Freedom of the Will published

February 11-13, 1755: reads *End of Creation* to Joseph Bellamy and Samuel Hopkins
The Stockbridge Mission

- February 9, 1753: Indian boys’ school burns under mysterious circumstances

- May 22, 1753: Gideon Hawley, Timothy Woodbridge, Benjamin Ashley and Rebecca Kellogg Ashley depart for Onohquaga mission in northern New York

- December 1753: contingent of Mohawks departs Stockbridge

- February 1754: Isaac Hollis, chief philanthropist, gives Edwards sole charge of the schools

- March 1754: nearly all remaining natives leave the mission

- May 1754: Timothy Woodbridge and Gideon Hawley depart to minister to Six Nations

- April 1755: Gideon Hawley and Jonathan Jr. journey to Onohquaga
The Seven Years’ War
(French & Indian War)

- June 16, 1753: Mohawks end treaty with British
- Summer 1754: Edwards parsonage fortified and quartered with soldiers
- July 1754: English force under George Washington defeated in western Pennsylvania
- September 1, 1754: Schaghticoke Indians kill four colonists in a raid on Stockbridge
- May 1756: war declared between France and Britain

July 1755: British forces under General Braddock defeated at Monongahela
Edwards’s Study

The “Scrutore”
The “Lazy Susan” Table
Table-chair, Mission House
Towards the Treatise

“Moral Agency” notebooks
(4 extant)
Promoting the Treatise: Broadside Proposal to Print FOW (JE wrote the book description)

Copies would be distributed, subscribers would sign their names in the space at the bottom indicating the number of books they promised to buy, and then return the subscription sheet to the author or agents.

The subscribers’ list for FOW included over 300 pledging to purchase 772 copies.
PROPOSALS for Printing by Subscription, in one Volume Octavo.

A Treatise Intitled,

A careful and strict Enquiry into the modern prevailing Notions of that Freedom of Will, which is supposed to be essential to moral Agency, Virtue and Vice, Reward and Punishment, Praise and Blame.

WHEREIN are examined the main Foundation of the whole Arminian Scheme, as opposed to the Doctrines maintained by the Divine and the main Grounds of the pretended Demonstrations in which the Supporters & defenders of the same have been engaged by various Writers, as far as may be supported against Calvinistic, and particularly against the doctrine of the absolute freedom of the Will. Doctrines are supported by Nothing but absurd and ridiculous Arguments, contrary to the plain Dictates of common Sense.

In this Discourse, Endeavours are used particularly to establish the true Foundation and Establish the doctrine of that moral Agency which readers Men the proper Subjects of moral Actions, Persuasions, Promises, Threatenings, Praises, Dispraise, and Punishments, and the most demonstrable Evidence, shewing the palpable Absurdity of the whole Arminian Scheme, and with common Sense.

Among many other Things here treated of, are the Nature of Liberty; the Nature of Liberty; the Nature of Liberty; the Nature of Liberty; the Nature of Liberty; the Nature of Liberty; the Nature of Liberty; the Nature of Liberty; the Nature of Liberty; the Nature of Liberty; the Nature of Liberty.

By JONATHAN EDWARDS, A. M.

Pastor of the Church of Stockbridge.

Boston, April 25, 1753.
Adverts, 18th-Century Style

Boston Gazette, Oct. 1, 1754

THIS DAY is Published,
(And sold by S. Kneeland, in Queen street.)
A Careful and strict Enquiry into the modern prevailing Notions of that Freedom of Will, which is supposed to be essential to Moral Agency, Virtue and Vice, Reward and Punishment, Praise and Blame. By JONATHAN EDWARDS, A. M. Pastor of the Church in Stockbridge.
Price 5s. & 6d. lawful Money, each Book, common Binding.

Boston Post Boy, Oct. 21, 1754

And sold by S. Kneeland, in Queen-street.
A Careful and strict Enquiry into the modern prevailing Notions of that Freedom of Will, which is supposed to be essential to moral Agency, Virtue and Vice, Reward and Punishment, Praise and Blame.

Boston Gazette, Oct. 22, 1754
TO be Sold a likely Negro Girl, who has had the Smallpox for Country Travails. Inquire of the Printer, that she may be sold.

Sold by a person on board a ship, lying at Clark's Wharf, a silver Watch, and a pair of silver Shoe-Straps, which must be sold, as the master is anxious to return to his native country. Any information respecting the person may be given to the printer.

Boston Gazette, Nov. 5, 1754
A careful and strict
ENQUIRY
into
The modern prevailing Notions
of that
FREEDOM of WILL,
Which is supposed to be essential
to
Moral Agency, Virtue and Vice,
Reward and Punishment, Praise
and Blame.

By JONATHAN EDWARDS, A.M.
Pastor of the Church in Stockbridge.

Rom. ix. 16. It is not of him that willeth——

BOSTON, N.E.
Printed and Sold by S. Kneeland, in Queen-street.
MDCCCLIV.
Ownership of a copy of FOW

(note original “prise”)
JE's response to Lord Kames, printed separately in 1758 and in 1768 edition of FOW