

Note on the Text

In general, I have chosen to leave the text of quotations, as well as titles, with their original spelling, italicization, capitalization, and punctuation. I have done this in part to retain the flavor of these early tracts and in part to avoid unduly biasing the reader's interpretation of ambiguous passages. More important, many printers actively used italicization, capitalization, and punctuation to augment the message conveyed by the text. However, it has proven necessary on occasion to quote from modern, edited collections in which the text has been modernized.

For the dates before England and her colonies switched to the New Style (Gregorian) calendar in 1752, I have followed the standard convention of stating the year as if 1 January—not the Old Style (Julian) calendar's 25 March—were New Year's Day.

And though all the windes of doctrin were let loose to play upon the earth, so Truth be in the field, we do injuriously by licencing and prohibiting to misdoubt her strength. Let her and Falshood grapple; who ever knew Truth put to the wors, in a free and open encounter[?]

—John Milton, *Areopagitica*, 1644

It has ever been . . . our fixed resolution to keep *our Journal* free and open . . . yet we do not mean that it should be a vehicle of . . . inflammatory declaration.—In the present unhappy controversy between G.B. and these colonies . . . we defy any one . . . to say they were denied a place for their pieces in our paper; yet, at the same time, we look on it as a right to judge [what to omit] and have always followed our own judgement.

—William Bradford, *Pennsylvania Journal*, 17 August 1774

