

# CONTENTS

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS ix

Introduction 3

*Nominalist Theology?* 6

*The Renaissance against Scholasticism?* 11

*Theology and Literary Analysis* 20

### ONE

The Free Reader: Hypothetical Necessity in Fiction 25

*Absolute versus Hypothetical Necessity* 26

*Pulci, Ariosto, Rabelais: Hypothetical Worlds* 30

*Tasso, d'Aubigné: Return to Absolute Necessity* 42

### TWO

Free Reward: Merit in Courtly Literature 51

*Condign versus Congruous Merit* 53

*Favor and Merit in Castiglione's Libro del cortegiano* 56

*Complaining Courtiers: Marot and Ronsard* 66

*Merit and Fictional Courts:*

*Rabelais and Marguerite de Navarre* 71

### THREE

The Free Creator: Causality and Beginnings 84

*Causation as a Theological Problem* 86

*Authority as Prior Cause* 94

*Source and Movement: From Pantagruel to the Tiers livre* 102

*Montaigne's Beginning, or, Authorizing the Subject* 110

*The First Cause of Custom: Essais I, 23* 114

### FOUR

Free Choice in Fiction: Will and Its Objects in Rabelais 126

*Antecedent and Consequent Will of God* 127

*Will, Final Cause, and "Voluntarism"* 130

*Gargantua's Dilemma and Pantagruel's Choice of Panurge* 135

*Panurge's Dilemma* 140

### FIVE

The Free Poet: Sovereignty and the Satirist 149

*Du Bellay's Refusal* 149

*The Sovereign as the Unbound: The Huguenots and Bodin* 153

viii CONTENTS

<i>God's Sovereignty</i>	162
<i>Du Bellay and the Voluntary</i>	167
<i>Negative Sovereignty</i>	174
<i>Sovereign Friendship: Montaigne and La Boëtie</i>	182
Epilogue: Will and Perspective	191

BIBLIOGRAPHY 195

INDEX 211