Gloucester Journal Sources

24 August 1731: Runaway slave? ‘a lusty black fellow’ in the service of Mr Viney in Gloucester. A caution to others from hiring him.

17 and 24 March 1806: Atrocities in the West Indies- long piece continued over two weeks describing two incidents; the murder of a pregnant female Negro and the torching of a Negro boy.

A witness to the murder said ‘he (Mr Hall-the murderer) ought to be hanged, for he never saw a more unprovoked, and that he would certainly carry him before a magistrate. Hall’s reply is very remarkable “For what? For killing a Negro!!”…Negroes are regarded by their white-skinned oppressors as an inferior order of beings.’ Also makes the comment that it is a strange state of society for murder not to be seen as a felonious act.

Entry regarding the boy ‘a fire was put to the hole where the boy lay, who, when he began to be torched, ran from his hiding place…two white men fired at the boy several times with shot…pelted with stones…(the men) ordered the Negroes to dig a grave…as soon as the grave was dug he was thrown into it and covered over, and as is believed, while yet alive…’

2 March 1807: details of the debate in Parliament over the abolition of the slave trade. Includes some references to religion. The idea of ‘do unto your neighbour as you would be done unto yourself’.

6 April 1807: Reports of the bill being recently passed. Refers to slave trade as ‘inhuman traffic’.

Late July-Late August 1834: Various articles regarding the 1834 Eastern Division elections between C W Codrington and C H Tracy Leigh.

Glos. Journal concernig Codrington ‘we are always ready for the trial, and we shall never suffer an enemy to reform to sit in Parliament as our Representative, and we trust the rest of our brother electors will aid us in returning a man who will support the present very liberal and economical Government’ (26 July); ‘Those of you who propose to vote for CODRINGTON, beware of the consequences.’ (2 August)

Includes: a speech and various notices by Codrington stating his confidence of victory in the election; an account of election day with the speeches by both candidates (9 August); report of Codrington’s victory and a speech of thanks from Codrington (16 August);

A letter written to Glos. Journal after election criticising results ‘THOSE who, in the recent Contest, voted Blue, against their professed inclinations, from threats and intimidations, let them not assert the honoured name of FREEMEN; but let them be looked upon as Mr CODRINGTON’S White Slaves. Let this be their appellation; and let them walk among men with the opprobrious mark on their forehead, sensible of their degradation, until another contest shall afford them the opportunity to wipe the foul stain from their dishonoured brow. A POOR BUT INDEPENDENT ELECTOR.’ (16 August)

A poem about the blues (Tories) and yellows (Whigs) describing the blues as ‘the blue Tyrant’ (23 August)