Chapter 2

The Anonymous Hector Journal
March 4th, 1607, to March 12th, 1608

The journal, British Library India Office Records, L/MAR/A/4, is separately bound, its eighteen folio leaves inset on larger leaves. The original pages are 30½ centimeters by 19 centimeters. A number are missing, with no entries after 30 August 1607 until mid–18 February 1608. The loss of these months is regrettable, for the surviving passages are exceptionally detailed and reflective. There is a decisive change in the handwriting f17r, line 6, mid-sentence in the 25 February entry. The new hand, tighter and more elegant, continues to the equally abrupt close of the journal, mid-sentence, one-third of the way down the page (l.16). The opening page is very faint, its right margin damaged and uneven. A few subsequent pages are also faint or gapped. For likely authors, see the Introduction.

March the 4th, 1606 [1607]

Yf in the governmente offe Commonwealtheys yt been thought needf[ull to] recorde such Accidentes as happen in mans Judgement [worthy of] note, which though they bee not penned by scholers of ra[rest] Elegancy, yet are they often perused by men not the [meanest in] esteeme for civell pollicy, who make great use of mattheres [long] agoe perfformed by comparinge wth them thinges presente or [which] seeme like to aproach; then am I perswaded that in a matter [of so] great importance as
the voyage nowe intended is of, & in a [journey] soe longe as from weaste to East, many matters worthy [of note] may offree occasion of Recorde, seeminge very unfyt to be bur[yed] in oblivion. Nether doe I doubt but as the relatines of travey[llers] whoe lived in former tymes have redounded to the greate int[erest] of this presente age and singular benefite of our commonw[alth], Soe may this my paynes performe som parte of the like offi[ce to] succi- cedinge ages or at the leaste sat[i]sfie the expectacion [of] such as requier this taske both by me and othere of my sorte [to be] performed, whome I muste entreat to expecte noe other matt[er] then that which by right may bee challeding from one of my breed[ing], beinge a stranger to sea affayres, and a sojourner only in my [owne] native soyle, out of which I entending by the permission [of] god [to] depart towards the Easterne endes of the earth, I came abord the good Shipp Called the Hector at Eryth, wheare shee Rode at anchor the 4th day of march 1606 being wednesday, [where] I delivered dyveres goodes belonginge to the Compyny of marc[hantes] tradinge to the East Indiees which weare comitted to the c[harge] of Mr Symon Dyckinson¹ and myselfe, wth order to lade the [same] abord the Dragon, Hector, and Concent, being tow sh[ippes] and one pinnice apoynted and bound for the Easte Indies, [which I] beseech god to prossper wth good successe [and] salfe returne.

7  Day of march being Satterday did the Fliete waigh anch[or] entendinge to fall downe to Gravesend, but beingg becalmed the Admirall & Hector cast anchor againe in the same plase, [and] allsoe ye Concent wth in sight of them. Yet shee by Reason of small burthen played down wth the tyed the same night.

8  Day being Sunday Mr Eldrid and Mr Hammersley² w[hen] aboarde, procured the [mai]steres to waigh, fearinge the [force of ye] winde wchich then blue might prove contrary, soe wee came to anchor that Evening against [G]reene Hy[eth].

9  Day beinge Munday Sir William Romney gover-nour of [the] comp[any] together wth Mr Willame Greenwelle deputy [and di]veres of [the] merchantes cam aboarde the Hector in the morninge unto aft[ernoon] of some business there, departed from us and went aboar[d the] Admirall, caused her waigh in the after noone & so did [the Hector], both settinge sayle for Tylbery hope, & in the waye as t[hey] weare against [Gr]avesend, the Governor [deputy and] mer[cha]ntes departed from