Chapter 5

The Red Dragon
Journal of John Hearne and William Finch,
8 March 1607 to 19 June 1608

Independently bound (with unravelling thread), the unpaginated journal holds thirty brittle, yellowed leaves brownish at the margins with clear, dark ink and legible script. Each page is 30.2 centimeters high and about 19.7 centimeters wide (39.5 centimeters across the full leaf). The hand is consistent. It tightens and clarifies briefly to inscribe what look to be Keeling’s notes for the meeting on 2 June 1608, with an “I” befitting the Generall. There are pen drawings of several landscapes: Fernando de Laronno (6–7 June 1607), Isla Verde and Sierra Leone (5 Aug), “The Land to ye N°. of Cape buena Speranza” (17 Dec), “part of St. Laurence Island” (17 Feb 1608), Guachincall (9, 17 & 18 Mar), Pemba (26 Mar), Dorfu (18 Apr), Abba de Curia, Dos Yrmanos, and Zokatora (19–20 Apr). Names of the deceased appear in the margins in the original hand; other marginalia have been added later, most of them in ink, a few in a much later hand in pencil. Inked in the margin, a finger points to passages on 18 January, 27 April, and 22 May 1608. The British Library shelf mark is L/MAR/A/5.

1606 [1607] March

The Journall or Daily proceedinge of three shipps sett forth by the woorl Comp° of merchantes traddinge to the East Indias and by the grace of god bound for those parts Ann° 1606[7] vidz':

R. Barbour, The Third Voyage Journals
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The Third Voyage Journals

The Dragon Admirall wherof Cap’ Wm Keelinge
Genzerall
The Hector vizadmirall wherof Cap’ Wm Hawkins
Liueten’ genrl
The Consent reradmirall wherof is Cap’ David
Middleton

8 The 8 day of march the shipps wayed ankor ffrom Erith
and ankored againe at Greenhith that tyde.
9 The 9 day the shipps came all to an ankor in Tilbury
hope.
21 The shipps sett sayle ffrom Tilbury the Consent havinge
by our genneralls order made sayle the 12 of this
moneth.

1607 28 The ships ankored in the downs vidzt the Dragon &
Hector, ffor wee sawe not the Consent after, shee putting
ffrom Plymoth to sea by the order of the woor
shipfull Companie before our arvall thither.

APRILL 1607

15 The 15 day wee came into Plymouth sound where wee
ffound the Hector not havinge seene hir since the 9th
of this moneth at wch tyme wee lost companie wth hir
in a greate ffogg.

Heer wee heard the Consent departed the 12 last past
not leavinge any noate ffor our generall of his purpose.

16 The 16 day wee sett sayle out of Plimoth sound the
wind beeing at East, and towards night it came aboute
more northerly.

18 The 18 day wee lost sight of the Lizard, the wind havinge
bene variable at N.N.West and sometymes at S.W.b.W.

This day wee did speake wth a small shipp of London
bound ffor Legorne laden wth corne whoo tould us that
there were 3 men of warr, Hollanders, aboute the Lizard
wch hadd pillaged 2 Scottishmen and one of their owne
Countrymen, a Hollander.

20 Wee steered S.W.b.S the wind beeing at N.N.W.

This day aboute 8 a clock in the morninge the Hector
spent hir fore topmast. And aboute one hower after set-
tinge our lee shrowds in the Dragon, wee had a man
washed out of our ffore chaynes and drowned, whose name
is David Roch, the wind at N.N.W a very stiff gale.

David Roch

22 Wee steered S.b.W., the wind blowing very ffresh at
N.N.W., wee deeming our selves in the height of Cape
St Vincent.