

SUMMARY: The excerpts below are from entries of 1-3 March 1582 in the diary of Richard Madox (1546-1583). The 'Bess Bavisar' to whom Madox refers is Oxford's mistress, Anne Vavasour. Thomas Knyvet was her uncle. Madox may have written 'Garret' in error for 'Knyvet'; Nicholas Faunt's letter to Anthony Bacon of 17 March 1582 states that both Oxford and Knyvet were hurt (see Lambeth Palace MS 647, f. 123). The man of Oxford's who was slain in this fray, which must have occurred on 21 February 1582, was one Robert Breninges, whose burial is recorded in the parish register of St. Botolph's Bishopsgate (see Guildhall Library MS 4515). For other references to this and other frays between Oxford's men and Knyvet's see SP 12/154/13, ff. 23-4, SP 12/154/11, ff. 20-1, SP 12/154/12, ff. 22-22bis, and BL MS Add. 15891, ff. 65v, 67. There is a connection between Madox and Oxford in that both were involved in the ill-fated Fenton voyage to the East Indies. Richard Madox was a chaplain on this expedition, and in the fall of 1581 Oxford invested £500 pounds in the venture. Three ships, the *Leicester*, the *Talbot* and the *Edward Bonaventure* set out for the Moluccas under the command of Captain Edward Fenton in May of 1582. Having started out too late in the year to round the Cape, Fenton, upon arriving at Sierra Leone, decided to cross the Atlantic to Brazil and sail through the Straits of Magellan to the Pacific. An attack by three Spanish warships off the coast of Brazil put an end to these plans, and Fenton set sail for home, reaching England in May of 1583.

1 My brother and sister and I dined at Mr Hardwick's, and after we went down by water to Blackwall to the *Edward Bonaventure* where we eat and drank, and came home by Ratcliff.

2 My brother was at the Merchant Tailors' hall with the company, and prepared to ride. He gave me £5.

MN: Parted from my brother

3 I rode with him to St. Alban's, and at the southeast door of the minster we parted, weeping and committing each other to the Lord, who restore us one to another again at the time of his good pleasure, and keep us ever in his fear. I came to London back.

MN: Lord of Oxford hurt

My Lord of Oxford fought with Mr Knyvet about the quarrel of Bess [sic] Bavisar and was hurt, and Garret [sic?], his man slain, which grieved the Lord Treasurer so much the more for that the Earl hath company with his wife sith Christmas, and taken her to favour, but through this mishap, and through the pains he took at the marriage of another daughter to my Lord Wentford [sic] on Shrove Monday, my Lord Treasurer was sick. God send him health, for he is the health of the whole land.