

Even then will rush to knowledge. Go, fresh horses;
And gracious be the issue! [Exeunt.

S C E N E II.

A court of justice.

Leontes, Lords, and Officers, appear properly seated.

Leo. **T**HIS session, to our great grief, we pronounce,
Even pushes 'gainst our heart: the party try'd,
The daughter of a king, our wife, and one
Of us too much belov'd: let us be clear'd
Of being tyrannous, since we so openly
Proceed in justice, which shall have due course,
Even to the guilt, or the purgation.
Produce the prisoner.

Off. It is his highness' pleasure, that the queen
Appear in person here in court. Silence!

Hermione is brought in guarded; Paulina and Ladies.

Leo. Read the indictment.

Off. Hermione, queen to the worthy Leontes, king of Sicilia,
thou art here accused and arraigned of high treason, in committing
adultery with Polixenes king of Bithynia, and conspiring with
Camillo to take away the life of our sovereign lord the king, thy
royal husband; the pretence whereof being by circumstances partly
lay'd open, thou, Hermione, contrary to the faith and allegiance
of a true subject, didst counsel and aid them, for their better safety,
to fly away by night.

Her. Since what I am to say, must be but that
Which contradicts my accusation, and
The testimony on my part no other
But what comes from myself, it shall scarce boot me
To say, not guilty: mine integrity
Being counted falsehood, shall, as I express it,

Be