

Is th' argument of time: of this allow,  
 If ever you have spent time worse ere now;  
 If never, yet that time himself doth say,  
 He wishes earnestly you never may.

[Exit.

## SCENE II.

*Court of Bithynia.*

*Enter Polixenes, and Camillo.*

*Pol.* **I** Pray thee, good *Camillo*, be no more importunate: 'tis a sickness, denying thee any thing; a death, to grant this.

*Cam.* It is sixteen years, since I saw my country; though I have, for the most part, been aired abroad, I desire to lay my bones there. Besides, the penitent king, my master, hath sent for me; to whose feeling sorrows I might be some allay, or I o'erween to think so; which is another spur to my departure.

*Pol.* As thou lov'st me, *Camillo*, wipe not out the rest of thy services by leaving me now: the need I have of thee, thine own goodness hath made; better not to have had thee, than thus to want thee. Thou, having made me businesses, which none, without thee, can sufficiently manage, must either stay to execute them thyself, or take away with thee the very services thou hast done; which if I have not enough considered, as too much I cannot, to be more thankful to thee shall be my study, and my profit therein, the heaping friendship. Of that fatal country *Sicilia*, pr'ythee, speak no more; whose very naming punishes me with the remembrance of that penitent, as thou call'st him, and reconciled king my brother, whose loss of his most precious queen, and children, are even now to be afresh lamented. Say to me, when saw'st thou the prince *Florizel* my son? kings are no less unhappy, their issue not being gracious, than they are in losing them, when they have approved their virtues.

*Cam.* Sir, it is three days, since I saw the prince; what his happier affairs may be, are to me unknown: but I have, musingly,