

# *All's Well That Ends Well*

## Act I, sc. 2

### KING

I would I had that corporal soundness now,  
As when thy father and myself in friendship  
First tried our soldiership! He did look far  
Into the service of the time and was  
Disciplined of the bravest: he lasted long;  
But on us both did haggish age steal on  
And wore us out of act. It much repairs me  
To talk of your good father. In his youth  
He had the wit which I can well observe  
To-day in our young lords; but they may jest  
Till their own scorn return to them unnoted  
Ere they can hide their levity in honour;  
So like a courtier, contempt nor bitterness  
Were in his pride or sharpness; if they were,  
His equal had awaked them, and his honour,  
Clock to itself, knew the true minute when  
Exception bid him speak, and at this time  
His tongue obey'd his hand: who were below him  
He used as creatures of another place  
And bow'd his eminent top to their low ranks,  
Making them proud of his humility,  
In their poor praise he humbled.

Such a man Might be a copy to these younger times;

Which, follow'd well, would demonstrate them now

But goes backward.