How Firm a Foundation

From A Selection of Hymns from the Best Authors, by John Rippon, 1787; attributed variously to John Keene, Mr. Kirkham, and John Keith. Mr. Rippon's hymnal simply refers to a “K” as the author. This hymn was sung at the funerals of Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and General Robert E. Lee. I hope it to be sung at my funeral. This and 'Amazing Grace' are my two favorite hymns.

Even down to old age all My people shall prove
My sovereign, eternal, unchangeable love.
And when hoary* hairs shall their temples adorn,
Like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne.

The soul that on Jesus has lean'd for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, tho' all hell should endeavor to shake,
I'll never, no never, no never forsake.

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* 'Hoary' means white with age.

Mr. Rippon's hymnal refers to Hebrews 13:5: "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." I would add to this Isaiah 41:10-13.

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