Make me a captive, Lord

Leominster (D.S.M.)

George William Martin (1828-1881) arranged by Sir Arthur Sullivan (1842-1900)

1. Make me a captive, Lord,
   And then I shall be fre;
   Force me to render up my sword,
   And I shall conqueror be.
   I sink in life's alarms
   When by myself I stand;
   Imprison me within Thine arms,
   And strong shall be my hand.

2. My heart is weak and poor
   Until it master find;
   It has no spring of action sure -
   It varies with the wind.
   It cannot freely move,
   Till though hast wrought its chain;
   Enslave it with Thy matchless love,
   And deathless it shall reign.

3. My power is faint and low
   Till I have learned to serve;
   It wants the needed fire to glow,
   It wants the breeze to nerve;
   It cannot drive the world,
   Until itself be driven;
   Its flag can only be unfurled
   When Thou shalt breathe from heaven.

4. My will is not my own
   Till Thou hast made it Thine;
   If it would reach a monarch's throne
   It must its crown resign;
   It only stands unbent,
   Amid the clashing strife,
   When on Thy bosom it has leant
   And found in Thee its life.