enough. If they fly through the fields while I am gone, I shall have the damage to pay, and may lose my place, and then I would be ruined entirely. You see that one with a black head? It is a sly bird, and will be sure to lead the flock astray while I am gone."

The king smiled.

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"I know how to manage men, and I think I can manage a goose."

He bade the boy go at once. The latter hesitated, but finally consented, giving the king a whip to crack in case the geese should begin to disperse.

But the winged subjects of the monarch soon perceived that their master was gone, and began to cackle and announce the news to each other most jubilantly. The black-headed bird began to march and countermarch, and the whole flock under his generalship scattered, each separating from the other, and forming a line which grew longer and longer. The king issued his commands in a loud voice, and tried to crack the whip, but all his efforts went for nothing. The geese observed the orders of the gander.

The king ran hither and thither, but

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the line of the geese only grew longer and more diverse.

"Shew!" said the king. It was the only goose language he knew.

"Honk!" said the gander, and the geese obeyed the mysterious command, and made their line longer and longer."

At last the "black-headed bird" gave a triumphant "Honk, Honk," and the whole column of geese rose into the air and flew into the fields. The king, bathed in perspiration, sat down in

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great vexation to find that his royal authority was of so little account in the goose kingdom.

Presently the boy returned, and saw what had happened. He was in great terror and distress.

"Did I not tell you that you did not know enough to take care of geese? Now you must help me find them again!"

The king consented, and late in the day the flock was gathered.

"I'll never go away again," said the boy; "not for the king himself."

The king returned to the castle quite thoughtful. It was easier, after all, to manage a kingdom than to out-general an old gander—a thought which was hardly flattering to the kingdom.