



Of its Fertility

THE COUNTRY ROUND IS EVERYWHERE DRY AND INFERTILE except where it can be irrigated. For it rarely rains there. They have just gone nine months without rain. There are four river valleys, the Ebro, the Jalón, and other smaller rivers sufficient to irrigate their valleys. Cattle and flocks are numerous in the Ebro valley, corn in the Jalón valley, and wine and olives in the two others. In fact, they all abound in wine and corn and oil. In single years

⁵ Glick, *Muslim fortress*. There were collectively owned mills in the Duero valley in the 10th century, and mills owned by groups of peasants in Catalonia in the 11th. The early ones led water through a gate down a sloping channel to a horizontal wheel, and were cheap and easy to build. Later, more complex and expensive vertical mills were owned by lay, and then by ecclesiastical lords. Monasteries bought shares to assure their own flour supplies. Münzer tells us on page 143 about famous mills in Toulouse.