



THE IBERIAN PENINSULA: POLITICAL.

*The Southern and Eastern Regions.*—The plain of the Guadalquivir and the irrigated gardens or 'huertas' of Valencia and Murcia are the most productive regions of Spain. Here it was that the Saracens or Moors, who invaded the land in the eighth century, remained so long, the final wholesale expulsion of them not taking place till about 1610, and here, consequently, are to be found most traces of their presence. Having come from Arabia, a region of drought, the Moors evidently appreciated to the full what could be done by means of irrigation, and some of their irrigation works are still in use. Many of the buildings in this area are of Moorish origin, and display the characteristic horse-shoe arch, while Arabic names of places abound throughout the country. the capital of the Moorish kingdom was Granada, where the famous palace called the Alhambra was built.