

E. SUPPLEMENTARY WORK.

ANCIENT CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS ;
CHARLES DICKENS ; THEME
SUBJECTS

I. ANCIENT CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS.

Suggestion 20. The "Christmas Carol" is so distinctively a Christmas tale and is so filled with allusions to Christmas observances that a study of the manner in which Christmas was celebrated in Merrie England is necessary at this point. Many of these customs are now obsolete, but as literature is filled with allusions to them, they should be understood by every reader.

1. The Christmas Season.

Note 19. The Christmas season lasted twelve days, from December 24 to January 6, the latter being called "Twelfth Day" or Epiphany.

a. "The sacred name and origin of" Christmas Day.

2. Popular Customs.

a. Burning the Yule log.

Suggestion 21. Why is Christmas called the merry "Yule Tide" ?

b. Christmas carols.

(1) The first Christmas carol was the hymn sung by the angels on the plains of Bethlehem, says an ancient divine.

(2) The most popular of all the early Christmas carols is that quoted in our text. It contains seven stanzas, of which the first and last are as follows :