



SNOW BOUND.—Whitney.

FEBRUARY.

WHAT ZERO MEANS.—Perhaps not one person in a hundred knows why a point 32 degrees below the freezing point on Fahrenheit's thermometer is called zero. For that matter, nobody knows. The Fahrenheit scale was introduced in 1720. Like other thermometric scales, it has two fixed points—the freezing point, or rather the melting point of ice, 32 degrees above zero, and the boiling point of water, 212 degrees above zero. The Centigrade and Reamur call the freezing point zero, and measure therefrom in both directions. This is a very natural arrangement. Fahrenheit kept the principle on which he graduated his thermometers a secret, and no one has ever discovered it. It is supposed, however, that he considered his zero—32 degrees below freezing—the point of absolute cold or absence of all heat, either because, being about the temperature of melting salt and snow, it was the greatest degree of cold he could produce artificially, or because it was the lowest natural temperature of which he could find any record. The grounds on which Fahrenheit put 180 degrees between the freezing and water boiling points are likewise unknown.

ST. VALENTINE (14th FEBY)—CUPID'S ARREST.

"Cupid, little criminal,
What have you been doing?"
"Nothing wrong, oh, nothing wrong,
Just a little wooing."

"You've been stealing hearts, I fear,
Stealing hearts by dozens."
"No, I haven't, no, I haven't;
They were all my cousins."

"Come along, you little fraud;
You will have to tarry
In a prison, till you learn
Wooing means to marry."

"Very well, here's Bonnybelle;
She shall be the winner."
Bonnybelle said, "Officer,
Free the little sinner."

"Oh, I'll marry—Bonnybelle
Knows my truth and purity;
Here is good Saint Valentine,
He'll be my security."