

*Kataragama Pilgrimage.***No. 14 of 1873.****An Ordinance relating to the annual Pilgrimage to
Kataragama.**

WHEREAS the collection of a large number of persons to proceed annually in a pilgrimage to Kataragama, and their march thither from different places in the island, are proving a source of danger to the pilgrims themselves, and to the inhabitants of the villages and towns through which the pilgrims pass; and the efforts of Government to induce the pilgrims and others promoting or connected with such pilgrimage to submit voluntarily to such restrictions as are necessary to prevent the spread of contagious diseases have proved ineffectual: It is therefore hereby enacted by the Governor of Ceylon, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, as follows:

Preamble.

1 It shall be lawful for the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, from time to time by notification in the *Government Gazette*, to make orders for any of the following purposes, and to appoint officers to enforce the observance of such orders:

Government empowered to make certain orders, and to appoint officers to enforce them.

- (1) To restrict the number of persons who shall be allowed to proceed in such pilgrimage from the different parts of this island, and the period of their stay at Kataragama.
- (2) To regulate the collection of people at the different starting and halting places, and their march to and from Kataragama.
- (3) To impose such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary to promote cleanliness, and to check the breaking out and spread of infectious diseases.

2 If any person shall knowingly and wilfully disobey or contravene any such order given under the authority of the preceding section, or shall obstruct, hinder, or resist any officer appointed to enforce any such order, he shall be guilty of an offence, and be liable on conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees, or to imprisonment, with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year.

Disobedience of such orders, or obstructing officers enforcing them, made penal.

3 It shall be the duty of the officers appointed to enforce the orders given under the authority of the preceding section, and of all officers of the police force, and of all headmen, police, and peace officers generally, to aid and assist in the prevention of offences against this Ordinance or the orders made thereunder; and every officer or headman who, being made cognizant of any such offence, shall fail to make complaint thereof, or shall fail to act promptly and vigorously thereupon, or who shall wantonly exceed or abuse his authority in the execution of any act, or the exercise of any power under this Ordinance, or the orders made thereunder, shall be guilty of an offence, and be liable on conviction thereof to a fine not exceeding five hundred rupees.

Officers to assist in enforcing orders.

Liability of such officers.

Cases may be tried before police courts, though otherwise out of their jurisdiction.

4 Whereas the punishments assigned to offences under this Ordinance are beyond the jurisdiction of police courts, but it would be frequently more advantageous that such offences should be brought to trial before such courts in order that the punishment of offenders may be more prompt, even though it should be less severe, it is therefore enacted that it shall be lawful for any justice of the peace before whom the offender shall be brought to direct that any offence committed under this Ordinance, or the orders made thereunder, may be prosecuted before a police court, and such court shall thereupon take cognizance of such offence or act, and award in respect thereof so much of the punishment assigned thereto as police courts are empowered by law to award.

5th November, 1873.
