and the Lords the trial and judgment; and this division of labour became the rule, which was strictly followed until the abandonment of the process of impeachment a century ago. The step taken in 1376 was followed in 1386 on the impeachment of the Earl of Suffolk; and, though it was temporarily dropped in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries in favour of arbitrary Acts of Attainder (which are merely statutes ordering execution without trial), it was revived with great effect in the Parliamentary struggle of the seventeenth century, in the well-known cases of Buckingham, Strafford, and Laud, and was resumed after the Restoration, in the cases of Clarendon, Danby, and others, down to the case of Warren Hastings, the last famous (though not absolutely the last) instance of impeachment. The special point about an impeachment for our purpose is, that it is not necessarily based on any definite *crime* (indeed a commoner could not be impeached for an ordinary felony), but always on misconduct in affairs of State as an official. Thus it afforded a real, though rather irregular, check on arbitrary and corrupt conduct by a Minister of the Crown; especially after it had been decided, as it was in Danby's case (1678), that even obedience to the King's personal order was no defence to an impeachment.

'Appropriation' and 'Ordinary' Revenue

Almost simultaneously with the appearance of impeachment, viz. in 1377, we note the beginning of an even more important effort of Parliament to control the action of the Executive, by 'appropriating' to particular objects taxes granted by it at the request of the King. This was a new feature in the situation; and it could hardly have appeared so long as the King continued to 'live of his own,' *i.e.* to defray the expenses of government out of his hereditary or custom-