

**APOLLONIUS OF
TYANA, AND
OTHER ESSAYS**

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Apollonius of Tyana, and Other Essays by Thomas Whittaker

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THOMAS WHITTAKER

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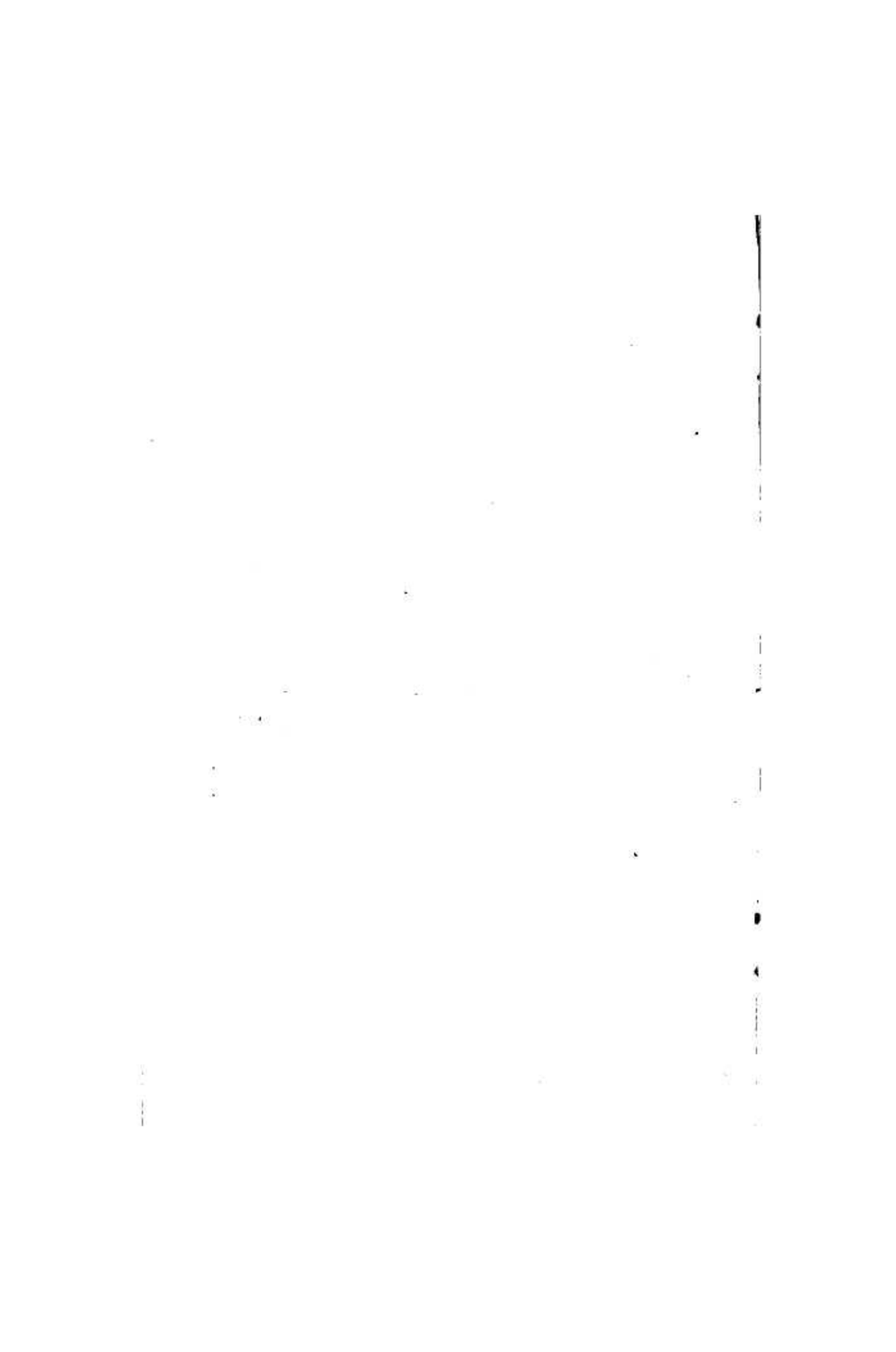
By
THOMAS WHITTAKER
AUTHOR OF "THE NEO-PLATONISTS," ETC



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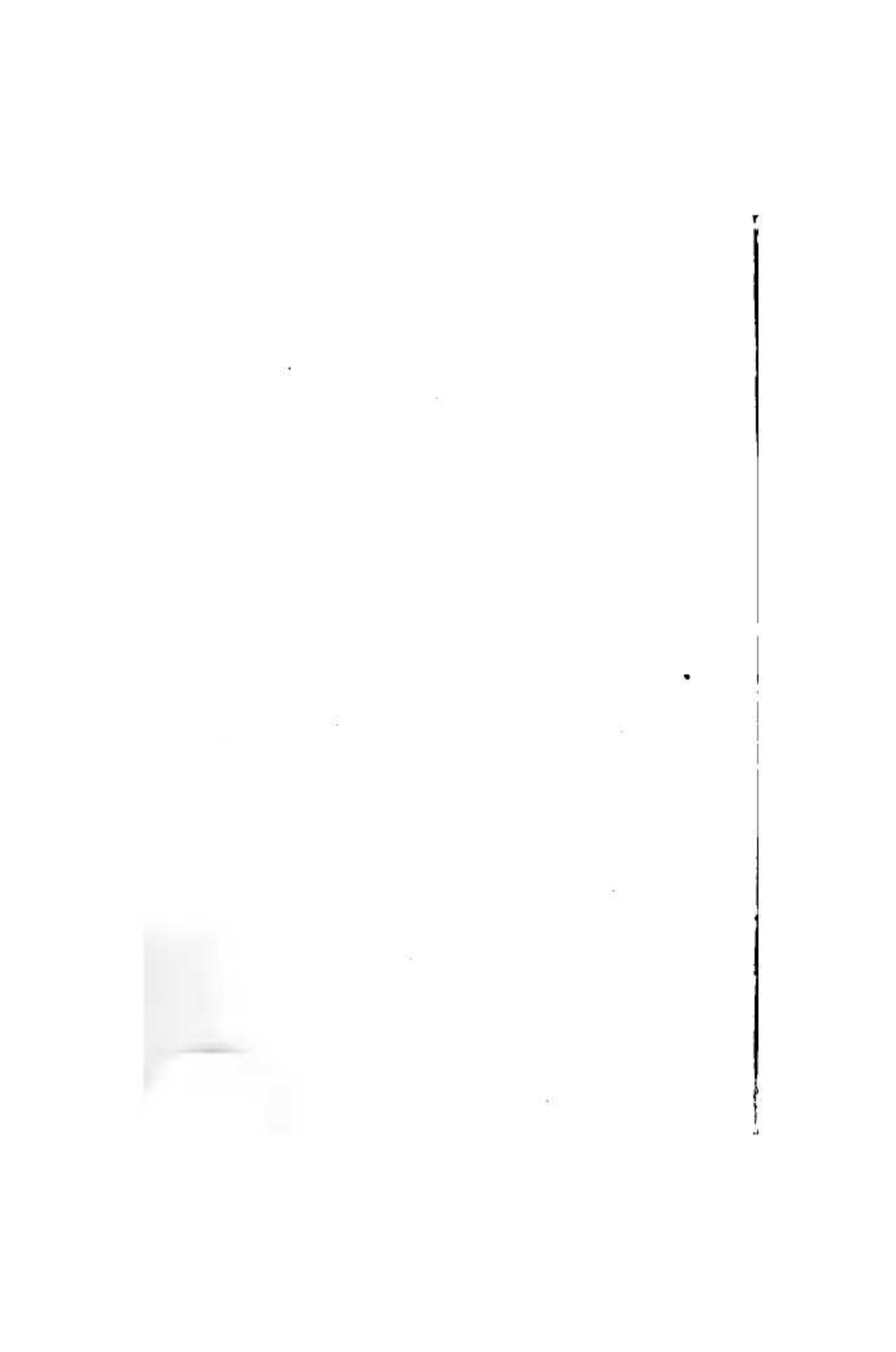
NOTE.

Of the six essays contained in this volume, the first three—much the larger—are historical; the last three, positive. The first of the series appeared in *The Monist* for January, 1903; the fifth in *Mind* of the same date. The rest have not hitherto been published.



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APOLLONIUS OF TYANA.

A REFORMER of Greek religion from within, whose activity may have coincided with the first emergence of the Christian propaganda from Judæa, is undoubtedly an interesting historical figure. And both in ancient and in modern times Apollonius of Tyana has been made the subject of parallels which were probably never thought of by the author of his extant Life. The first of these parallels was by Hierocles, Proconsul of Bithynia under Diocletian; in which the attempt seems to have been made to show that the marvels attributed to Apollonius were better authenticated than those attributed to Christ. We do not possess this work itself; but we have the reply of Eusebius, Bishop of Cæsarea and ecclesiastical historian, written after the triumph of the new faith. The most elaborate modern parallel is that of F. C. Baur, first published in 1832.¹ Baur here attempts to show, not only that there are resemblances between the Life of Apollonius by Philostratus and the Gospels, but that Philostratus deliberately modelled his hero on the type set forth by the Evangelists. Though he was followed in this view by Zeller, it is now generally rejected; so that there is no need to enter into controversy on the subject. It remains, however, none the less interesting to try to determine the character of the reforming activity of Apollonius himself. Was his predominant aim to conduct the world along the path of intensified supernaturalism,

¹ Republished by Zeller with two essays on related subjects under the general title, *Drei Abhandlungen zur Geschichte der alten Philosophie und ihres Verhältnisses zum Christenthum*, Leipzig, 1876.