

# Lincoln Finds His Faith

Lincoln in his youth had often been a critic of some of the doctrines of Christianity. He found Constatin Volney's *Ruins* and Thomas Paine's *Age of Reason*, to be more influential than the teachings of the Christian faith. Over the years, the problems with faith had been overshadowed by his bustling life. It was not until Eddie's death that Lincoln's doubts and misgivings rose up to perplex him again.

While in Lexington in 1850 Lincoln took time to browse through the Todd family library and came across a book titled "*The Christian's Defense: Containing a fair statement and impartial examination of the leading objections urged by infidels against the antiquity, genuineness, credibility, and inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, enriched by the copious extracts from learned authors.*" It was the name of the author that caught his eye. He was Dr. James Smith, the Springfield, Illinois, preacher who had conducted little Eddie's funeral.

Lincoln was unable to finish reading the book during his stay in Lexington, but he read enough to make him seek out an interview with Dr. Smith. Dr. Smith lent Lincoln his copy of the book. From then on Lincoln rented a pew at the First Presbyterian Church in Springfield. It was through the discovery of this interesting book in Lexington, that Lincoln opened his mind to Christianity.