A CELT IN ROME

Writing Assignment #3

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A Celt in Rome, written by William Crockett, set different scenarios of walks through the life and times of the Roman expansion and how that related to the inhabitants of the city/states and/or provinces that rallied against them. This paper will give a brief examination of my impression of the when, who, what, and why of this very interesting book.

Caledonians were a tribe always on their guard against the Romans. Taranis is the Celtic leader of the Caledonians, with Cronn as his lieutenant. His style of warfare puts his men in positions that favors success. The Celts had the knowledge of the land with the advantage to hide in places that would be otherwise uninhabitable. This war style propelled the Caledonians fighters to a place among the mightiest warriors, but like all warriors there are times of loss. This was one of those wars that the Celt's were out manned and maneuvered by the Romans. Taranis was captured and shipped off to Rome.

The Romans were a well-oiled machine when properly directed by seasoned leaders who won nearly every battle for the Roman Emperor. They were regimented, well trained and had the advantage of tens of thousands of men in their ranks. This Celts' did not possess half of their numbers. Among their ranks was Vectis, the Tribune who took over Legions II, XX, and VI of trained soldiers that moved together like a wave of the sea. In this particular fight the Caledonians were outnumbered and out strategized. "The battle was lost, but the Caledonians were far from the woods…seeing no point in continuing the battle, discarded swords and dropped to the ground."[1] Another victory for the Romans passed over the Celt's like that wave of the sea which consumed them.

The Celt's love of country and people reminded me of the Israelite people who fought for religious freedoms and temple purity. Lester Grabbe, author of "An Introduction to Second Temple Judaism", explained it this way, "The Maccabee brothers and their followers won sufficient victories against the Seleucids to take back the temple and purify it. The result was Antiochus rescinded his decree of religious suppression."[2]

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[1] William V. Crockett. *A Celt In Rome.* (Hudson Publishing, 2018), 84.

[2] Lester L. Grabbe. *An Introduction to Second Temple Judaism.* (New York: T&T Clark International), 2010, 16.